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AMBITIOUS ZLATKO
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HOW TO SELECT THE NATIONAL COACH
Jerzy Wrzos PhD sets the parameters



VIERI, JANCEV IN
VICTORIAN SLIP UPS

Left: Smoke bombs set unhealthy passions aflame. Centre: Igniting fans from the field. Right: Police separate the rival spectator groups after last Sunday's disgraceful scenes of violence at St George Stadium.



DISGRACEFUL SCENES
at
SYDNEY OLYMPIC v PRESTON

BIG TV BLOW-UP

BY KEITH GILMOUR



Preston fans ride high on old Balkan political issues after Abbas Saad's goal in the build-up to the riot. It's up to the NSL to belatedly decide and apply the remedies — All photographs by HECTOR CARRASCO.

BATTLE lines are being drawn for a classic contest between the two arms of government television for important rights for screening the Australian game.

On the face of it ABC Television is in the box seat.

It has a watertight contract over the National Soccer League matches, in its second season of five, with a five-year option as well.

Ordinarily there

would be no contest, but there is a further vital area up for discussion.

At stake is televising of national team matches for the future, a sector which is of vital interest to SBS Television as well.

So the scene is set for a classical confrontation between the networks.

On the sidelines are the commercial channels.

There is no chance that they would pick up NSL soccer — unless the Bradley Report re-

commends a genuine all-major cities Australian Soccer League.

Commercial networks could then see — in soccer — a new

Australian rules, rugby league or basketball situation in the making.

On the face of it the ABC contract over NSL matches should push any such move well down the line.

But the ABC knows that, if SBS takes the Socceroos, little brother will then have the big end of the market.

Would ABC want the NSL if SBS is awarded the Socceroos?

It remains to be seen.

As it stands, 'The Big Match' switch to Monday nights has been a success.

Ratings on the first two nights began at 8, receding to 5s and 3s.

Soccer can't expect more than that at this stage.

SBS is screening World Soccer, Italian Soccer and now the Johnny Warren Captain Socceroo session.

In addition, it is airing, 'Viva World Cup' in the run-down to its Italia '90 World Cup cover in June and early July.

SBS has committed a huge slice of its sports budget to the World Cup, and expects to take a big slice of the ratings when the time comes.

It will certainly make its commitment to its other soccer programmes seem really worth-

CONTINUED ON
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Olympic's Marko Perinovic could be Sydney based

BY GRAHAM COOKE

FOR Marko Perinovic, this has been one of the best summers of his life.

And it has not been because he has had any time for relaxing on the beach or touring exotic locations — quite the reverse.

Perinovic has been busy pursuing his career as a semi-professional footballer with Sydney Olympic in the first summer season of the QNT National League, and as far as he is concerned, the experiment has been an almost unqualified success.

"Apart from one game which we played in mid-afternoon in 28 degrees, I have enjoyed every moment of it," he says.

"The pitches have been far better than they normally are in winter, the atmosphere under lights is fantastic and the crowds have increased."

"I would definitely say summer soccer is here to stay."

It was at the end of the last NSW State League season that Perinovic, his reputation as a goalscorer firmly established with Canberra Croatia and Inter Monaro, decided to move on to the big league with Olympic



Marko Perinovic executes an overhead scissors kick — he's been amongst the goals for Sydney Olympic.

— and his goals have helped keep the club on the fringe of the finals race with two rounds to play.

Still living in Canberra, where he has a job in the Public Service, the big striker has battled to preserve his fitness.

"My little brother, Robert, who is a member of Croatia's youth team, deserves a medal for putting in the hours helping me train."

"Then I go to the ANU for some weight work, while Croatia and the AIS have also

helped out.

"But mostly it's up to me, and sometimes it has been a struggle balancing the demands of family, work and soccer."

He feels his future lies with Olympic and is investigating work transfer possibilities which will give him a Sydney base.

"I'm 26 now and want to play with them for the next three years at least."

On Croatia's chances of joining him in the QNSL next spring: "They have a good side, but I honestly believe (player-coach) Tom Sermanni cannot afford to leave himself out as he has been doing in pre-season games."

"He is a tremendous midfielder and that is where most goals are created."

"Without him I don't think Croatia can score enough goals to win the championship."

Perinovic still believes Olympic will make the top-five QNSL play-offs and looks forward to the drama of a finals series.

Some advice to the ASF on its coach

Criteria for selecting a new national coach

BY DR JERZY WRZOS*

FOR about seven years I have been closely observing coaching and its effects on Australian soccer.

The improvement in the standard here is obvious to any interested observer.

It is due to better training of club coaches, and also in the training carried out at central level by the ASF coaches such as Frank Arok, Eddie Thomson and others.

Similar improvement has occurred in world soccer.

During the last few years several individuals of international standard have emerged, and the Australian team has played a number of good "friendly" international matches, as well as at the Olympic Soccer Tournament in Seoul 1988.

In order to achieve world rank it is necessary to qualify for the most important test, which is the finals of FIFA World Cup.

It is a fact that this aim was not reached in the last four elimination rounds for the world series (Argentina 1978, Spain 1982, Mexico 1986, and now Italy 1990).

There are no such things as results without causes, and it is the task of the ASF and its coaches to determine those causes.

This should be the basis for working out the plans to carry out training programs for the 3-4 years cycle covering the eliminations for the FIFA World Cup in USA 1994.

In order to reach this task, in the first place it is most necessary to raise the standard of coaching in the clubs.

One sees good individual players on the field more and more frequently.

So what remains to be done is to skillfully build a strong representative Australian team.

This requires persistent and hard effort, especially when faced with the improvement of standards world wide.

One of the most important steps by ASF towards achieving this is the choice of the national coach (for the Australian National A team, Australian Olympic team, and Youth teams under 20 and under 17).

Without a doubt, any person familiar with professional world soccer and its training demands, knows that the important qualities required in a National Coach should include:

- wide experience in coaching teams of high standard,
- knowledge of the demands of international soccer training,
- wide specialist techni-

S O C C E R

THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING GUIDE



Cover design for Dr Wrzos' new book, due out in January 1991.

cal and tactical knowledge, as well as basic knowledge of sports physiology and psychology to permit him to utilise the advice offered by those sciences which are now so closely found with world standard coaching in top professional soccer.

- show ability to adapt latest training methods, and ability to not only be a good coach, but also a psychologist (be able to raise team members' motivation to train harder and play better).

- his own vision of how to build a team, and select players accordingly

- ability to build a team upon the capacity and playing style of the individual team members (not as is often observed on the playing field to impose a playing style upon the players, irrespective of their individual characteristics)
- in order not to work in the dark, know methods for evaluation of effectiveness of training practices. It is the coach's skill (art) that decides training effectiveness, and builds up form to a high standard for the time limits imposed by the important matches (e.g. elimination for World Cup, Olympic Tournament, etc).

- close co-operation with club coaches, especially those whose members are chosen for training with and playing in the National team

- ability to choose such assistant coaches who understanding his training task, can contribute towards achievement of the training program of the National coach

- an "information bank" on training methods of other countries, about their strengths and weaknesses in technical, tactical, physical and psychological

cal preparation of their players and teams.

In general, we can state that coaching methods conducted according to "feel" went for good about 20 years ago.

A coach who used methods by which he was trained 10-15 years ago without doubt will automatically drag the game down.

We can see former world player stars who are now coaching (Franz Beckenbauer, Jack Charlton, Dino Zoff, Ferenc Puskas, John Cruyff, and many others) constantly improving their knowledge about present coaching methods.

They know that good results are achieved only by keeping abreast of scientific methods based on experience, theory and co-operation with others specialists.

If we wish to see Australia included in international class soccer and participate in the finals of the FIFA World Cup in USA 1994, we must start to apply those training methods which are used by the leading world teams.

Otherwise Soccer in Australia will slide backwards for a long time to come.

— Dr Jerzy Wrzos

[Sydney — based Dr Wrzos worked as a coach for European First Division clubs for 20 years, and was a senior lecturer at the Academy of Physical Education in Warsaw. He was one of the first to obtain a PhD in Physical Education. His books on soccer have been published in France and Belgium. His next book "Soccer — the International Training Guide" with a foreword by FIFA, will be published in New York in January 1991.]

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Rookie Filan tops votes

BY GREG BLAKE

JOHN Filan's extraordinary rookie season continues as he holds the lead in the ASW-Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre 1990 QNSL Player of the Year.

The remarkable new St George custodian earned eight votes for his Round 23 effort against Preston Makedonia and managed to increase his lead at the top with three rounds of votes yet to be tabulated.

Filan holds an impressive lead over a bunched field still in contention for the award as the season nears completion.

If Filan is successful he takes away a magnificent trophy and \$300 cheque compliments of Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre.

Filan is also in line for the special goalkeeping award sponsored by Reusch Australia.

To be in contention for the award a player

must poll votes in at least 20 QNSL matches at season's end.

The leader board after votes were tallied and averaged at the end of Round 23 was:

- 6.91 J. Filan (StG)
- 6.76 — A. Davidson (MC)
- 6.74 — G. Arnold (SC)
- 6.65 — T. McCulloch (Marc)
- 6.59 — G. Jolevski (PM)
- 6.52 — R. Catlin (Marc)
- 6.50 — D. Lowe (Marc)
- 6.49 — A. McPherson (SMH)
- 6.48 — C. Gosling (SO)
- 6.45 — T. Pezzano (Apia)
- 6.41 — Z. Adzic (MC)
- 6.40 — C. Moffitt (St G)
- 6.39 — A. Bundalo (Apia)
- 6.36 — G. Brown (ME)
- 6.35 — R. Wheatley (Marc)
- 6.30 — S. Keogh (SGC)
- 6.29 — B. Milosevic (MC)
- 6.27 — A. Tobin (AdC)
- 6.26 — P. Tsolakis (SMH)
- 6.23 — W. Gonzalez (ME)
- 6.21 — R. Ironside (SO)



Round 25 crucial for most teams

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

ROUND 25 of the Quit National Soccer League, although the penultimate week of the competition, could well decide the Top Five and relegation issues.

Hoping for something special from the Easter Bunny are Adelaide Hellas and Sydney Olympic, who are fighting for their respective survival.

Olympic stumbled at home last week and now must beat St George on Easter Monday to keep their slim hopes of a play-off berth alive.

Adelaide Hellas have quite a different battle on their hands, when on Sunday they visit Sunshine just three points ahead, Hellas' only life-line.

Anything less than a win for the visitors will mean certain relegation and Hellas coach Brian Garvey must go all out and attack Georgie or face the State League in a few weeks.

With experienced players like Richard Miranda, Billy Wright and Alby Kidd, Hellas have the men to do the job against Sunshine, who will be quite content with a draw.

Sunshine came into their most important game of the season, following on from five successive defeats without scoring while Hellas were unlucky to lose narrowly to both South Melbourne and Sydney Croatia.

Although this match is a battle at the bottom of the league, the game will no doubt be played like a cup tie and could well be a cliffhanger.

Surprise

With just one win and only five goals away from home this season, Hellas have the poorest record in the league, but Brian Garvey's men could well surprise and take the vital points back to Adelaide.

Sydney Olympic, who shot themselves in the foot, dropping a point at home to an inspired Preston last week, take on St George.

As the chances for Olympic's forwards fell by the wayside so too did their chances of a Top Five place as Apia opened up a three-point break.

Alistair Edwards made a welcome return to Australian football and injected new life into the Olympic attack and coach Mick Hickman must start with Edwards to partner Mark Perinovic and Abbas Saad against the Saints.

In Olympic's favour St George must first tackle Melita on Saturday, the match postponed from last weekend and a tough battle against the Eagles

could blunt the Saints for the tie against Olympic two days later.

Frank Arok's side, jaded by the loss of Scott Ollerenshaw early in the campaign, have not had a good season but would like nothing better than to end Olympic's season prematurely.

Without a win in their last three games, Olympic should turn the corner on Monday, but if Apia and Adelaide City win, the points will be worthless.

Difficult

Melita also face a difficult Easter weekend, after hosting the Saints in a deferred match on Saturday. Raul Blanco's men travel to Middle Park for the first time, to take on the hot and cold South Melbourne.

With the scalps of Adelaide City and Marconi in recent weeks, Melita will be no pushover for Souths, who, lying second, are looking to secure a place in the all-important top three.

To add spice to the occasion, some of the league's most lethal finishers will be on show: Melita have top scorer Greg Brown partnered by the unpredictable but brilliant Marshall Soper while Hellas can look to Peter Tsolakis and Kim Taliadoros to put away the opportunities.

Souths stretched their unbeaten run to eight with the win over Wollongong last week while Melita have lost only once in their last five.

At home, however, Souths have proved invincible this season, conceding just seven goals and without defeat in 12 matches, they should be marginally too hungry for the Eagles.

High fliers

The big clash on Sunday is at Hindmarsh where high fliers Adelaide City and Melbourne Croatia go into battle.

The jockeying for positions is so tight at the top that City, who went down to leaders Marconi last week, slipped out of the top three in what was only their second loss in 16 matches.

While Adelaide City have won six on the trot at home, netting 17 goals, Melbourne Croatia have won four and drawn one in their last five away from Somers Street, scoring 15 goals in the process.

A loss for either side could mean missing a spot in the top three, while City have not yet made certain of a play-off place, however, at home Zoran Matić's slick outfit will start

slight favourites.

The local 'Italian' derby between Marconi and Apia has an added dimension with both sides fighting for top five places.



DAVID LOWE: back to his best form for champions Marconi.

Leaders Marconi could all but sew up the minor premiership if they can dispose of their traditional rivals while Apia will secure a place in the semis if they can pick up the points.

Manfred Schaefer's patchwork side made light work of bottom side Blacktown last week and should have Jason van Blerk, Andy Stankovic and Mark Brown back from suspension to bolster their chances against the champions.

Apia must shackle the Marconi engine room of Paul Okon, Ian Gray and Tom McCulloch while keeping David Lowe and Fred de Jong in check up front, while Alex Bundalo and van Blerk pose the biggest threat to the visitors.

Marconi's record away from home is impeccable, with only one loss in their last 11, while Apia are unbeaten in their last five matches and have not lost at home since November.

All visiting sides have difficulty in breaking down the Apia defence on the tight Lambert Park pitch but Marconi should take another step towards their third title by taking the points.

Sydney Croatia should be too strong for Wollongong when the two sides meet at the Croatian Sports Centre on Sunday.

The Wolves have crumbled since their 7-0 drubbing of Adelaide Hellas a month ago and with three straight defeats coach David Ratcliffe will be motivated to see his Wollongong

charges finish on a high note.

Striker David Seal will look to increase his tally while Croatia coach Tony Vrzina has been instrumental in the club's revival late in the season.

Wollongong have lost five of their last six away from home while at the Sports Centre, Croatia, are unbeaten in the last six.

With both sides destined to finish middle of the table this season, Croatia should take the spoils on Monday.

Finally, Preston, beginning to get their act together at the wrong end of the season, host wooden spooners Blacktown, also on Easter Monday.

Warren Spink made a welcome return against Olympic last week and his partnership with Andrew Zinni was a constant headache for the Olympic defence.

Blacktown are playing like a condemned team and have lost seven of their last eight matches while Preston have not won for three games but proved their quality against Olympic.

Cup semis tonight

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

IT'S Cup time tonight as four top sides clash for a berth in the NSL Cup final to be played on Anzac Day either in Adelaide or Sydney.

Where will the Cup end up this season?

Olympic and Apia will strive to bring it back to NSW whilst Adcity will man battle stations to retain it within the South Australian borders.

That will leave Melbourne Hellas, against all odds, to fight a lone battle to lift the Cup for Victoria.



TONY PEZZANO

Tonight at the St George Stadium, at 7.30pm, Sydney Olympic must win over Apia if they are to salvage anything from their erratic season now that they are almost certain to not qualify for the Top Five series.

Apia has the edge in this match having won the first round NSL fixture and sharing the spoils in the second encounter.

Olympic's coach Mick Hickman is expected to pull something special out of the bag, and in fact must do so if he hopes to knock over a tenacious Apia handled by Manfred Schaefer.

Despite a heavy list of injuries and suspensions over the last six weeks, Apia have shown enormous resilience to bounce back and collect league points with monotonous regularity.

Chief engineer is their highly creative attacking midfielder Alex Bundalo who is tremendously supported by the hard-working linkman Shane Clinch and fill-in striker Darren Stewart.

Stewart, Apia's centre-back from Newcastle, has done a sterling job for Apia in the strike-line since taking over from the badly injured Rod Brown.

Apia's 'Department of Defence' has been extremely well marshalled this season by their English captain and sweeper, Bruce Halliday, well backed up by top form goalkeeper Tony Pezzano.

Meanwhile, at Hindmarsh, Ferenc Puskas' South Melbourne Hellas side takes on cur-



PAUL TRIMBOLI

rent Cup holders Adelaide City at 8pm.

Hellas has a lethal look about it with the league's most dynamic duo, Paul Trimboli and Kimon Taliadoros, spearheading the Victorian assault.

Both scored last Sunday in the league against Wollongong City.

But the Victorians will not have it all their own way as Zoran Matić, despite his 3-1 loss last Sunday against Marconi, still has ambitions to pull off the 'magic double'.

Adelaide City's technical, short-passing style could upset Melbourne's well balanced attacking pattern.

NSL CUP SEMI-FINALS TONIGHT

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 11
ST GEORGE STADIUM**

KICK-OFF 7.30PM



SYDNEY OLYMPIC vs APIA L'HARDT

HINDMARSH STADIUM

KICK-OFF 8PM



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Marconi brushes aside Adelaide challengers

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

A polished Marconi outfit displayed all the necessary discipline and class required to win the match which really mattered on Sunday, when they made their closest challengers, Adelaide City, look like pretenders rather than championship contenders with a suprisingly easy 3-1 victory at Bossley Park.

The return from injury of the powerful Ian Gray added a measure of authority to their midfield, while Kiwi striker Fred de Jong showed all the signs of hitting top form at the right time.

Throw in the amazing consistency of surely the season's player of the year in Tommy McCulloch, the complete dominance of captain Steve Calderan and the emerging talent of young Paul Okon and one can understand why this awesome green machine is looking good to complete its almost inevitable title hat-trick.

After a reasonably bright opening in which City striker Carl Veart was proving a handful for an initially hesitant Marconi defence, this long awaited top of the table showdown settled into an intriguing tactical battle in which both teams possibly showed a little too much re-

spect for each other.

But when Marconi striker David Lowe forced a difficult save out of keeper Robert Zabica from a strong header in the 28th minute, one sensed that the champions were gradually slipping into top gear.

With Adelaide concentrating on cutting out all the space in the middle, the home side were mounting their attacks by exploiting the flanks and from one such raid in the 35th minute, Lowe sent a curling cross which central defender Neville Flounders completely misjudged in his attempt to control on his chest, allowing Okon to nip in and slot wide of an out of position Zabica.

Marconi were by now well in control and it was no surprise when they went further ahead two minutes from the break.

Okon again found himself free on the left, cut the ball back for a charging Ian Gray to let go with a first-time shot which was going wide. De Jong instinctively stuck his head out to deflect into the far corner.

Trailing by two goals at half-time, Adelaide needed an early breakthrough to get back in the game, and they did just what within a matter of seconds of the restart.

Steve Maxwell put Aurelio Vidmar through with a delightful ball which left him with the relatively simple task of sliding



The Preston defence at sixes and sevens at Sydney Olympic last Sunday

beneath the advancing Bobby Catlin from a tight angle.

For 20 minutes the match was poised on a knife's edge as Adelaide got its act together and started pushing forward in search of an equaliser, but a disciplined Marconi defence, well marshalled by captain Steve Calderan, absorbed all the pressure.

In fact, it was Calderan who first defied everything Adelaide had to offer, then joined his attack to

grab the goal which clinched the game in the 65th minute.

Man of the match Tommy McCulloch ghosted into the penalty area to bring down an awkward ball and angled his shot across the face of goal for the skipper to power in a header.

Zabica blocked but Calderan followed up to ram home.

From that point on, City were a well beaten side.

Marconi got right on top and threw away numerous good chances to bring up an even more emphatic scoreline but with two minutes remaining it was Adelaide who came closest to pulling one back.

Vidmar again weaved his way past three defenders and beat Catlin with a low shot but de Jong capped off a great personal performance by clearing the danger off the line.

MARCONI: Catlin 7, van Egmond 6, de Marigny 7, Calderan 8, Wheatley 6, Gray 7, McCulloch 8, Okon 7, de Jong 7, Colucci (Gomez 35m, 6), Lowe 7.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 6, Tobin 6, T. Vidmar 6, Ivanovich 6, Flounders 5, Mella 6, Santrac 6, Veart 6, Mullen 6, Maxwell 6 (Villani 76m), A. Vidmar 6.

SCORERS: Okon 35m, de Jong 43m, Calderan 65m for Marconi; A. Vidmar 46m for Adelaide City.

YELLOW CARDS: Calderan 47m for Marconi; Santrac 73m for Adelaide City.

REFEREE: R. Lorenc 5.

ATTENDANCE: 5,389.

NSW NOTCHES

Manly-Warringah had a pleasant surprise for supporters at a recent home game at Cromer Park against Petersham.

The club alongside the ground opened its beer garden for the first time and on a sunny afternoon many patrons took advantage of the facility, watching the game outside under huge umbrellas.

It certainly was a colourful sight and much appreciated by locals and visitor alike. Incidentally, it took eight years for licensing approval to come for the project.

News spread like wildfire before Avala's final pre-season game that coach Mike Urukalo would not be taking the side this year after all. Apparently Urukalo was dissatisfied with certain aspects of his contract and there was a dispute with the club committee over players and the promises made to them. Danny Blanus took over the reins.

Newly-appointed Director of Sport Joe Alagich would be proud of the efforts of players such as Vladimir Zoric, Andrew Spnovic, Michael Callanan, Steve Wilson, David Candy and Zoran Milosavljevic, but most interesting new face is that of 35-year-old electronics engineer Vaso Despotovic who is providing the guile along with Zoran Beluzic to inspire the young Yugal side.

The loss of Chris Card, Shane Hall and Ben Divani may not be as severe as first appeared, and as usual the Blues must not be underestimated.

The introduction of a results service by the NSW Soccer Federation has generally been welcomed by State League supporters and officials, who have long had difficulty obtaining details of other games played at the weekend.

In future those requesting information on other games will be referred to the 0055 number after 7pm on match days, but some club followers are still far from happy. Apparently access to this service is not universal and up to 50% of subscribers are unable to satisfy their need to know results. It is to be hoped that the Federation continues to provide full details, including tables, to the major newspapers in time for inclusion in their Monday morning editions. Interest in these matters runs high and fans have been disappointed with the lack of coverage by the press for some time. Disgruntled supporters would lose nothing by writing to the papers concerned as the State League swing fully into action.

— PAUL GOODWIN



Sydney Olympic's Grant Lee in action in the costly 2-2 draw with Preston last weekend — Photo HECTOR CARRASCO.

Apia firms its Top Five chance

BY KEITH GILMOUR

A patched up Apia-Leichhardt controlled all but the opening 20 minutes of play to wallop defensively inept Blacktown City 4-2 at the Gabby Stadium on Saturday night.

Apia's dominance left Demons coach Tony Henderson vowing that he would use developing youth players in the final two games.

Henderson said: "I made it clear at half-time that I expected more cohesion, but the heart wasn't there."

"Some changes in staffing will be there for all to see in the coming State League season."

On the other hand Apia coach Manfred Schaefer could savour the possibility of an NSL Cup final spot, as well as a position in the Top Five.

"We did as well as we could seeing that we had Jason van Blerk, Andy Stankovic and Mark Brown out, and Brian Ellem returning after injury," he said.

In fact Ellem was one of Apia's best — a point not lost on the Blacktown management, who had let him slip through their fingers.

By the 19th minute Apia had their first goal. An Ellem screamer rattled the posts, Bill Londos felt it slip off his back and big Nick Theodorakopoulos was right in

place to put it away.

Alex Bundalo, playing wide on the right collected Apia's second after being fed by Peter Murray.

The half time score became 2-1, after Geoff Gunning whipped a low cross in from the left and the industrious Lawrie McKinna's head did the rest.

Blacktown's defence was completely hoodwinked in the second half as Apia coasted to a 4-1 lead with goals from Murray and Klaus Okon.

A Bundalo cross left Murray with a 53rd minute tap in, and six minutes later young Okon scored another.

The ball game was well and truly over but the Demons managed another goal through John Gibson in the 81st minute, after which Geoff Gunning was denied by the posts.

Bruce Halliday, Darren Stewart and Ellem looked best value for the winners, with McKinna shining for Blacktown.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Londos 4, Carter 6, Northam 5, Yankos 5, Maier 5, Bennett 4, Gibson 5, McKinna 6, Odzakovic 5 (Henderson 73m), Ferguson 4 (Arambasic 58m), Gunning 5.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Pezzano 6, McQuarrie 6, Jennings 6, Murray 6, Halliday 7, Clinch 6, Ellem 7 (Cosentino 79m), Okon 6, Stewart 7, Bundalo 6, Theodorakopoulos 6 (Reda 71m).

SCORERS: Theodorakopoulos 19m, Bundalo 35m, Murray 53m, Okon 59m for Apia; McKinna 38m, Gibson (81m) for Blacktown.

YELLOW CARDS: Yankos 60m for Blacktown; Halliday 83m for Apia.

REFEREE: P. Spiers 7.

CROWD: 1064.

Weekend fixtures



DEFERRED GAME

SATURDAY, APRIL 14
MELITA EAGLES v ST GEORGE

Melita Stadium 7pm

ROUND 25

SUNDAY, APRIL 15
SUNSHINE GC v ADELAIDE HELLAS
ADELAIDE CITY v MELBOURNE CROATIA

Skinner Reserve 3pm
Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm

MONDAY, APRIL 16
APIA LEICHHARDT v MARCONI
SOUTH MELBOURNE v MELITA EAGLES
SYDNEY CROATIA v WOLLONGONG CITY
PRESTON MAK v BLACKTOWN CITY
SYDNEY OLYMPIC v ST GEORGE

Lambert Park 3pm
Middle Park 3pm
Croatian Sports Centre 3pm
Connor Reserve 3pm
St George Stadium 3pm

Olympic's draw ruins chances

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC's meagre 2-2 draw with Preston at St George Stadium last Sunday has almost certainly killed off their chances to qualify for the NSL's Top Five series.

Olympic, placed in sixth position and three points behind Apia, must win their last two matches and pray Apia drops three of their next four points to enable themselves to scramble back into the end-of-season series.

And that is unlikely to happen.

Preston hit the lead when striker Robert Markovac headed into the target from six metres a free kick whipped in from the left.

Olympic threatened in the 19th and 25th mi-

nutes with shots from Grant Lee and Steve Refenes, the first being blocked by Phil Traianedes and the latter going just wide of Preston's right post.

Olympic equalised in the 27th minute when Davie Barrett whipped a fine cross into Preston's box where target-man Marko Perinovic nodded down for fellow-striker Abbas Saad to side-foot into the net.

Flares were thrown onto the pitch to celebrate Olympic's goal but it also disgracefully served as the 'official' signal for Preston supporters to attack the home fans and ignite a riot involving at least 400 people right behind Preston's goal.

Three minutes before halftime, Preston regained their lead



Police take charge at St George Stadium after the disgraceful crowd scenes that again ruined soccer's good name — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

Saints aim for South America

BY MARIO ETCHART

ST GEORGE could be touring South America next month if present plans come to fruition.

Club president Tony Balazsi and physiotherapist Pedro Ruz depart for Santiago, Chile, to finalise tour details, flying with Aerolineas Argentinas.

Mr Ruz is also a shareholder in the club, which is a private company.

The Saints received an invitation to tour from Chilean national champions, Colo Colo.

Mr Balazsi will discuss the possibility of six friendly matches in Chile with Colo Colo officials.

He is also interested in playing a few more games in Argentina and Uruguay against first class local clubs.

According to Balazsi, St George will accept Colo Colo's invitation as long as the six planned matches in Chile are against quality clubs.

If the tour eventuates it will be the first South American tour by an Australian club.

The tour would be of great benefit to St George and would provide an excellent build up for the next NSL season.

It will also open the doors for a better and closer relationship with South American soccer as a whole.

through striker Andrew Zinni who raced onto a bad back-pass by Olympic's Refenes that placed his goalkeeper Clint Gosling under extreme pressure, to easily score from close range.

Seven minutes after halftime Olympic should have equalised but Saad who broke clear into the box was brilliantly denied by Traianedes' outstretched right boot.

Olympic battled hard to gain control and in the 69th minute rolled the scoreboard over to read 2-2 when rugged midfielder Robbie Ironside nailed the target with a crashing header from eight metres after

meeting a fine cross rifled in from the left by Refenes.

Zinni came close to scoring again but was denied by a superb save by Gosling.

With seven minutes left of play, Saad blasted from six metres out and on target, but a very late deflection veered the ball just wide to the right of the goals.

After the match Preston's coach, Lube Jancev, reflected: "We controlled the first half but Olympic came back in the second half."

Gosling, Robbie Hooker and Barrett were outstanding for the home side, whilst Zinni, Traianedes and com-

eback man Warren Spink stood out for Preston.

Spink made his long-awaited return in fine style after missing just about all of the season to date.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling 8, Barrett 7, Plataniotis 6 (Bernal 81), Hooker 7, Georgakis 6, Lee 6, Ironside 6, Phillips 7, Refenes 6, Saad 6, Perinovic 6 (Edwards 64).

PRESTON: Traianedes 8, Runje 6, Jackson 7, Tasevski 7, Jolevski 6, Petrov 6, Woodall 6, Temcev 6 (Piculovski 81), Zinni 7, Markovac 6, Spink 6.

Scorers: Saad 27m, Ironside 69m for Olympic; Markovac 16m, Zinni 42m for Preston.

Yellow cards: Georgakis 28m for Olympic; Zinni 22m for Preston.

Referee: G. Power 9. **Crowd:** 3200.

Arnold all but dooms Hellas

BY ALAN CLARK

GRAHAM Arnold all but doomed Hellas to relegation on Friday night at Hindmarsh.

The midfielder half-volleyed home in injury-time at the end of the first-half to give Croatia a 1-0 victory in a lacklustre match.

Hellas needed an evening of fire, passion and power but with a line-up strangely negative in formation and lethargic in performance, they just were not up to the occasion again.

Tony Franken three times had to show he is a goalkeeper of athletic excellence with saves from Scottish imports Alby Kidd and Martin Doak in the second half and a first period effort from Richard Miranda but Hellas never seemed in the mood to secure the victory it so desperately needed.

Croatia, too, was intent to just go through the motions but still produced moments of skilled soccer with young striker David Seal really catching the eye with elusive runs, gifted crosses and threatening breaks at goal.

But what can you say of Hellas?

Quite frankly, they just are not good enough and coach Brian Garvey did not help with his formation.

Hellas had to go for goals but he played five

men with defensive qualities and really never got the side into gear.

Mind you, the front men he did play were lamentable.

Young Jim Keramidis seemed overawed by his NSL return and Raymond Blair had possibly his embarrassingly least effective game for Hellas and Billy Wright was a 'Clown Prince' who had no-one laughing.

Martin Doak, the defender the club said it did not want just a few weeks ago, again was the star performer.

He put the personal tragedy of wife Janice's miscarriage to the back of his mind to manfully manage the Hellas backlines.

ADELAIDE HELLAS: Parks 6, Sterrey 6, Doak 7, Hiern 6, Slager 7, Miranda 6, Keramidis 5 (Politis 67m), Kidd 6, Blair 4, Wright 4, Mills 6.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken 7, Popovic 6, Grbevski 6, Hunter 7, Babic 6, Kupresak 5, Riscoy 5 (French 78m), Jones 6, Arnold 7, Seal 7, Jurin (Lamond 35m, 6).

SCORER: Arnold 47m.

YELLOW CARDS: Doak 56m, Sterrey 89m for Adelaide Hellas; Hunter 55m, Seal 89m for Sydney Croatia.

REFEREE: J. McConnell 6.

CROWD: 3600 (est).

POINTS

Points were left out for Melita's Alex McPherson and Greg Dickinson in the 2-0 win over Wollongong City in Round 23. Both players were awarded 7 points.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY welcomes Letters to the Editor.

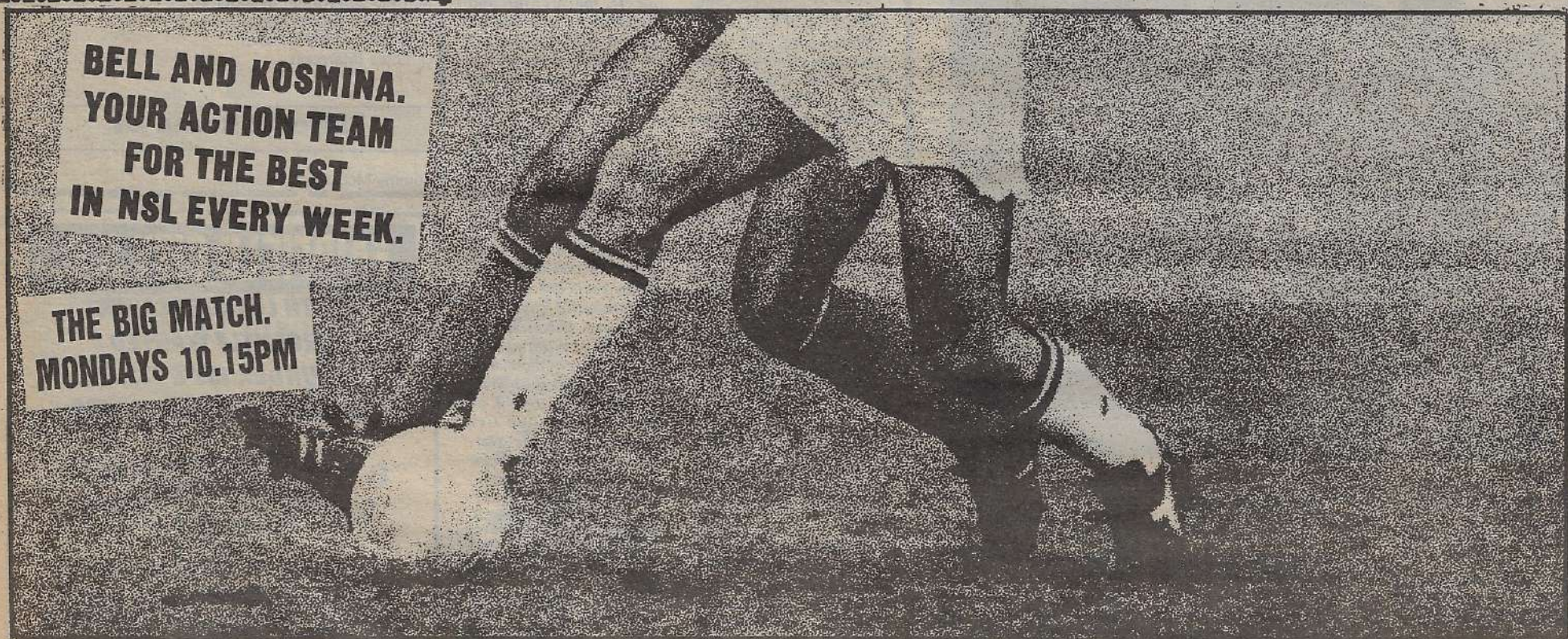
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Mail letters to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

They may cover any relevant topic in the entire world of soccer.

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Davidson, Hannah save the day

BY JOHN MANGAN

DID Melbourne Croatia peak too early in the season? This is the question fans are asking after the side showed only mediocre form in beating local rivals Sunshine George Cross 2-0 at Somers Street on Sunday.

While the result lifted Melbourne Croatia into third place, the team will have to sharpen its wits significantly if it is to mount a serious challenge in the finals.

While Alan Davidson and George Hannah were rock-solid in defence, the midfield and attack looked desperately short of ideas.

Sunshine George Cross' central defenders, John Waddell and Shaun Parton, were the visitors' stars in a makeshift team in-

cluding three reserves. George Cross has the timing of a team battling relegation, but at this point must be favoured to avoid the drop.

With Ernie Tapai and Gary Hasler out, this game was always going to be a tough proposition for Sunshine George Cross as they fielded youngsters like Mitch Cattermore, Kevin Muscat and Wayne Attard.

It shows how important the club regards this weekend's relegation clash with Adelaide Hellas that they rested Hasler and Tapai. If Hellas win that they will come within one point of Sunshine but if the latter win they will open up a five-point gap on the Adelaide team.

While Croatia disappointed on the day, they drew first blood in the 31st minute when Branko Milosevic

pushed the ball to John Markovski who had time to measure his shot on a difficult angle.

The home team had the better of the play but still George Cross threatened to snatch a point from the game with chances falling to Paul Foster and Parton.

But Croatia caught, the visitors on the break in the 86th minute when substitute Ivan Kelic nodded the ball past his marker, took the ball round keeper Sean Keogh, hesitated and then fired his shot home — much to the relief of the home fans.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 6, Davidson 8, Marth 6, Markovski 5, Hannah 7, Talajic 6, Milosevic 7, Biskic 6 (Selemidis 85m), Caleta 5 (Kelic 6), Adzic 6, Awaritfe 5. SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 6, Fabrizio 6, Roodhouse 6, Waddell 7, Parton 7, Ketsakidis 6, Kindner 6, Attard 5, Foster 5, Cattermore 5 (Zacharias 87m), Muscat 5.

REFEREE: Chris Bambridge 7. CROWD: 2500 (est)

South Melbourne bog down Wolves

BY LEN CHAFER



Wolves' striker Paul McFadden was too often caught with the ball to be effective against South Melbourne — Photo COURTESY ILLAWARRA MERCURY.

ON a very waterlogged ground at Brandon Park South Melbourne kept pace with the QNSL leaders with a 2-0 win over Wollongong City last Sunday.

Both goals were scored within three minutes of each other in the first half.

The first goal came after only 14 minutes of play, when Paul Trimboli ran past the Wolves defence on the left flank, raced towards goal and sent a perfect cross to the feet of Kim Taliadoros, who had the easy task of putting the ball into the net.

It was Trimboli in action again three minutes later when he tried to go around Wollongong goalkeeper George Bouhoutsos in the penalty area and Bouhoutsos brought him down.

Referee John Fraser had no hesitation and pointed to the spot and Trimboli scored.

Wollongong had Jock Morlando, Randell Easthorpe and Zivko Hristovski out through suspension, and with Ray Vlietstra missing with a broken leg and coach David Ratcliffe not playing, the team was below strength.

Youngsters Jeff Allport and Steve Baggott came into the side.

It was the same old story for the Wolves — putting the ball forward, but to no effect as they were approaching goal.

Danny Crainie had the first chance for Wollongong when in the 21st minute he missed a golden chance in the penalty box when his shot went sailing over the bar.

Wollongong did not seem to have the answer to the muddy conditions but South Melbourne were able to control the ball a lot better, and were sending quick passes through the middle.

Pat Brodnik was rushing his passes up

front for Wollongong, while Paul McFadden too often was caught with the ball.

Paul Wade and Mike Petersen dominated the midfield.

It was Wade who nearly had Melbourne three in front half-way into the first half when he sent in a good first-time cross from the left to catch the Wollongong defence napping, but the ball just failed to find the feet of Trimboli, and skidded away for a goalkick.

South Melbourne were not shy of shooting from a fair distance unlike Wollongong who tried to walk the ball into the net.

In the 70th minute Trimboli beat Allport on the left, headed toward goal, but Bouhoutsos came out and saved bravely at his feet.

Petersen also got into the act when he sent in a dipping shot, from about 15 metres out and the Wolves goalkeeper pushed the ball around the post for a corner.

David Skeen, who never stopped trying, sent McFadden in the clear, and his powerful shot only just missed the far post.

Trimboli, who seemed to be enjoying himself, had an excellent first-time shot saved low down by the Wolves keeper.

Melbourne controlled the game better in the mud than Wollongong, and deserved their win, but full marks to Wollongong who fought all the way without five regular first grade players, and whose youngsters were not disgraced.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Bouhoutsos 7, Skeen 7, Allport 6, Baggott 6, McEvoy 7, Lloyd 5 (Petkovic 5), O'Neill 5, McFadden 6 (Danzo 73m), Brodnik 5, Murphy 7, Crainie 6.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: MacLaren 6, Healy 6, Postecoglou 6, Durakovic 6, Blair 7, Wade 7, Taliadoros 7, Petersen 7, Trimboli 8, Wright 6 (Palatsides 73m), Tsolakis 5.

REFEREE: J. Fraser 6. CROWD: 636.

Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	24	14	6	4	47	22	34
South Melbourne	24	14	5	5	36	20	33
Melbourne Croatia	24	13	6	5	48	26	32
Adelaide City	24	12	7	5	38	23	31
Apia Leichhardt	24	11	9	4	35	22	31
Sydney Olympic	24	11	6	7	37	24	28
Sydney Croatia	24	9	6	9	35	36	24
Melita Eagles	23	9	5	9	23	24	23
Preston Make	24	8	5	11	29	31	21
St George	23	6	7	10	30	35	19
Wollongong City	24	7	4	13	26	44	18
Sunshine GC	24	6	4	14	23	44	16
Adelaide Hellas	24	5	3	16	20	52	13
Blacktown City	24	4	3	17	27	51	11

Results

ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (G. Arnold) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 3,600 (est).

BLACKTOWN CITY 2 (L. McKinna, J. Gibson) APIA LEICHHARDT 4 (N. Theodorakopoulos, A. Bundalo, P. Murray, K. Okon) at Gabbie Stadium. Crowd: 1,064.

WOLLONGONG CITY 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 2 (K. Taliadoros, P. Trimboli) at Brandon Park. Crowd: 636.

MARCONI 3 (P. Okon, F. de Jong, S. Calderan) ADELAIDE CITY 1 (A. Vidmar) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 5,389.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (A. Saad, R. Ironside) PRESTON 2 (R. Markov, A. Zinni) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 3,585.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (J. Markovski, I. Kelic) SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 0 at Somers Street. Crowd: 2500 (est).

MELITA EAGLES v ST GEORGE postponed to Saturday, April 14 — Melita Stadium, 7pm.

Crowds

ROUND 24: 16,774.
AVERAGE PER GAME: 2,962.
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 498,085.

Top Scorers

Greg Brown	(Melita Eagles)	13
Abbas Saad	(Sydney Olympic)	12
David Seal	(Sydney Croatia)	12
Zlatko Nastevski	(Marconi)	11
Zeljko Adzic	(Melbourne Croatia)	11
Peter Tsolakis	(South Melbourne)	11
Tony Krslovic	(St George)	11

Team of Round 24

C. Gosling (Sydney Olympic)
A. Davidson (Melbourne Croatia)
J.P. de Marigny (Marconi)
S. Calderan (Marconi)
S. Blair (South Melbourne)
P. Wade (South Melbourne)
T. McCulloch (Marconi)
M. Petersen (South Melbourne)
P. Trimboli (South Croatia)
D. Seal (Sydney Croatia)
D. Lowe (Marconi)

Player of Round 24

Tommy McCulloch (Marconi)

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Not this time ... Olympic's Robbie Ironside is beaten to the ball by Preston goalie Phil Traianedes at St George Stadium last Sunday — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

BEST WISHES!

ASW wishes to express best wishes to Joe Di Meglio, who is recuperating at home following a major operation. Joe was a well-known

Australian Soccer Weekly staff member, who recently took up a sports position with SBS Television.

All his friends trust that he continues to improve, and is back on the job hale and hearty once again.

Canberra to play Charlton Athletic

BY GRAHAM COOKE

ENGLISH first division soccer club Charlton Athletic will be playing under lights at Bruce Stadium on Thursday, May 17, the president of the ACT Soccer Federation, Ron Watkins, has announced.

Watkins has negotiated the game with the Queensland Soccer Federation which has arranged Charlton's visit.

He says one of the major aims is to bring back the big match atmosphere which existed in ACT soccer a decade ago.

he says.

"I know it is in a relegation battle at present, but that has been the case for the past two seasons and it has escaped both times."

"I wouldn't write it off this time, either."

He says it is too early to name a squad. "But obviously we will be looking at players from the top two clubs, Canberra Croatia and Inter Monaro, with possibly a contribution from the Australian Institute of Sport and the ACT League."

With the National Soccer League going into winter recess it will be easier to secure the services of some top-quality guest players, with possibly a preference for those who have had some contact with the area in the past.

One name which immediately springs to mind is that of Sydney Croatia goalkeeper Antony Franken who began his NSL career with Canberra City.

Founded in 1906, London based Charlton was elected to the English third division in 1921 arriving in the first for 21 years. A period of decline followed until it regained its first division place three seasons ago.

Since then it has engaged in an annual and until now successful battle to avoid the drop to the second.

Its best-known player is probably Steve McKenzie who 10 years ago held the record for the highest-priced teenager in English



transfer history, costing the equivalent of \$500,000 for a move between Crystal Palace and Manchester City.

Watkins also confirmed that a Canberra team will tour Fiji in late June with a program which will include the Fijian national team.

"We will also be playing in the blue and gold colours of the old Canberra City. The whole aim is to remind people of the days when soccer was the top sport in this town, at the same time stressing that with their support it could be again."

And Watkins promises an inexpensive night out, with charges around \$8 for an adult. "It is our aim to bring the game into the price range of the family," he says.

The side will be in the charge of Australian Soccer Federation staff coach Steve Darby, who is also vice president of the ACTSF.

Darby says he has already begun preparations by looking at a succession of video clips featuring Charlton.

"It does not have a lot of stars but is a good, all-round outfit which always tries to play attractive football," he said.



Charlton hots it up in the English First Division action.

Its opponent will be a 'Canberra City' side composed of the best players in the local area, with up to three big-name ring-ins.

"That is why we will be calling the local side 'Canberra City' after the club which first represented the ACT in the National League."

Marconi helps juniors to professionalism

WRITES FRANK SCICLUNA

REIGNING National Soccer League champions Marconi Fairfield have revealed details of an extensive development program, aimed at providing Australian juniors with an opportunity of carving out a full time professional soccer career without having to move overseas.

This newly established Junior Soccer Scholarship and Apprenticeship Scheme was unveiled at a function held at Club Marconi last Wednesday afternoon.

It was attended by newly elected Australian Soccer Federation president John Constantine and the country's best known soccer export, Craig Johnston.

In a brief but impassioned speech by the former Liverpool player, who scored the winning goal at Wembley

in the 1986 FA Cup final, he admitted his delight at the initiative taken by Marconi in creating this program.

"I was forced to travel half way round the world to make my dream of playing professional football come true," he said, "but I had no other choice."

"With this far sighted scheme, Marconi is now offering Australian kids a real chance of making the most of their talent without having to leave the best country in the world."

The scholarship scheme provides an opportunity for two or three youth players each year to experience overseas training methods over a four to six week period with some of the world's leading clubs.

Agreement has already been reached with two clubs in Italy and another two in Belgium.

As well as these scholarships, Marconi has introduced a full time apprenticeship

scheme aimed at providing young players of exceptional talent with a chance to realise their full potential.

Eighteen year old local teenager Paul Okon was the first apprentice to go on the scheme earlier this year, and is already holding a regular position in the Marconi senior side.

Okon is also widely tipped to captain the Australian Youth team for the World Youth Cup qualifying matches in September.

Club Marconi has made a commitment to provide the best possible facilities and opportunities for youngsters, which currently sees it catering for 300 players of all ages under the professional supervision of nearly 50 coaching, medical and administrative staff.

Its ultimate aim is to produce players of the same calibre as former Marconi stars Frank Farina, Eddie Krncevic, Rene Colusso and Peter Sharne, who all went on to hit the big



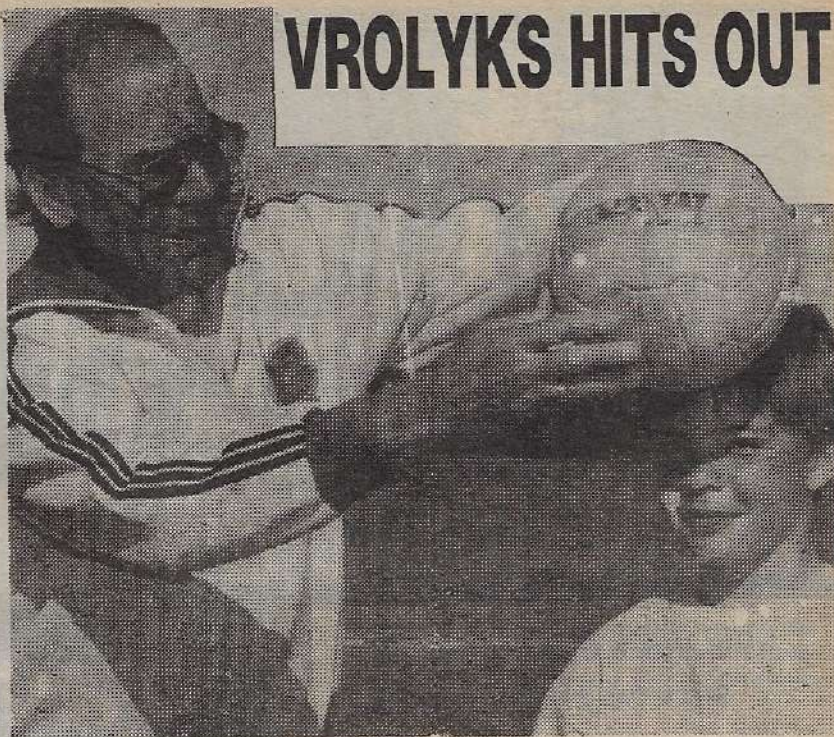
time overseas.

The establishment of this new \$200,000 scheme will ensure that future stars will be able to achieve their professional goals while remaining in this country.

Marconi deserves all the success it's likely to get from this exciting initiative, but the biggest winners will be the youngsters themselves and most of all, Australian soccer.

Supporting the club right through from the under 6 sides to the NSL is major sponsor, Brescia Furniture.

VROLYKS HITS OUT



Vrolyks — still helping Australian youngsters to improve their soccer.

Tidy up the NSL!

FROM BILL VROLYKS

[The writer, Bill Vrolyks, was a top player and coach in Sydney. He was a pioneer of systematic coaching and holds the medal of the Order of Australia. He has been a prominent figure on the NSW Central Coast for many years.]

I have been associated with the only real football game in the world since 1948 in this country as a player, the coach of Pan Hellenic (now Sydney Olympic) and Sydney Croatia and as an administrator.

Being still involved now, I think that I am qualified to offer an opinion on certain aspects of Soccer.

I have read with great interest the articles by Greg Blake, Frank Scicluna and other journalists about what's wrong and what should be done in the code, but in my view everyone seems to be missing the main point.

Over the past few months I have conducted a survey of 200 persons, in Sydney, Newcastle, Coffs Harbour, Armidale and Tamworth, not associated with the game of soccer.

I asked them if they followed any soccer and if not why, and here are some of the answers.

Some say, too dull, no results, a foreign game, when is the next riot, not enough physical contact, a pansy game and it goes on and on.

These people and others are completely brainwashed by the media — five pages in the morning paper, six in the evening paper plus TV, into believing there are only two football codes in the world.

From this I have drawn the conclusion that soccer is the right game in the wrong country and is not a marketable product here.

Dr Graham Bradley may have done well with rugby league,

which was a good product but handled badly, but whichever solution he comes up with it will be like selling Russian cars as against Holdens in Australia.

Where I was born, Holland, soccer was a way of life or a religion and the No.1 sport.

The same applies here — League in NSW, Queensland and Aussie rules down south.

If you asked Melbourne people who Mark Bugden (Parramatta League player) is and if you asked Sydney folk who Jason Dunstall (Hawthorn) is, they would not know what you're talking about.

It will remain the same forever.

So let us try and run the National League to the best of our ability by first reducing the number of teams from 14 to 10.

These would be two Sydney, two Melbourne, 1 Adelaide, 1 Brisbane, 1 Wollongong, 1 Newcastle, 1 Canberra, 1 Perth to improve the quality and reduce overall club costs and stop competing or comparing us with the other strange codes of football.

You might say that is not enough games but there are cups to be played for and other promotions which would give the players a total of at least the same as exists now.

That brings me to another subject — Eddie Thomson's statement on page 20 ASW March 21 about "before Eric Worthington there was nothing."

Eric took over an ready made Coaches' Federation in every state which had been operating since the late

fifties.

We also had a National Coaches' Federation plus a National Technical Committee, whose job it was to set curriculum and submit applications for National and State Coaches.

Listen to some of those names; the late Joe Vlasits, the late Deneas Adrigan, Dr Joseph Venglos, now in charge of Czech team, Matt Carson, Frank Schaper, Duncan Sumers, myself and many others.

Who is going to interview the applicants for the National job now... a cricketer or a barrister or people qualified for the job?

Those people in NSW who started organised coaching in Australia, and who had the foresight to start the Parklea project all on a voluntary basis along with Charlie Valentine should not be forgotten.

As far as I am concerned there are only overseas candidates for the National job that are qualified, and two that readily come to mind — Dr Joe Venglos who spent many years here, and Dettmar Cramer who was here often as a FIFA coach.

World Cups

FIFA president Joao Havelange, in a press conference held in Sao Paulo, said that Brazil could be the organiser of the 1998 World Cup.

Havelange also confirmed that the first World Cup to be held in the next century, in 2002, will be organised by an Asian nation and added that among FIFA's candidates are Japan, China and Saudi Arabia.

— MARIO ETCHART

FANS GIVE ADVICE TO THE NSL

I received lengthy letters the other day from Spilios Tokas and Peter Dounas of Adelaide.

The letters, more like a thesis on the QUIT National Soccer League, says a lot of things, some said before, some new.

I reproduce their comments here for many reasons, none the least that Peter and Spilios have been football fans all their lives.

More importantly they are 21 years of age.

As such we have much to learn from what the youth think regarding the direction of their sport's national competition.

In addition all must hope that the Bradley Report, due to be presented by the end of the month, addresses the real problems.

Here is the first analysis . . .

FOOTBALL (soccer) in this country is no longer a game, it's a shame.

For thirteen years the National League has plodded along with very little planning or direction.

Decisions by our hierarchy have often been made on an ad-hoc basis.

Thirteen years down the track, since the NSL pioneered a national competition, other sports like basketball, which have ventured into the national arena, have left soccer for dead.

Football administrators of the past have only themselves to blame for the predicament the game is in.

It's been often quoted that "football in this country tends to shoot itself in the foot."

Sports like basketball (which has a considerably smaller base than soccer) are being built into major sports right in front of our eyes.

Why, you may ask?

It's because basketball has highly professional management.

Each club in each major city has built-in stability, meaning every dollar wisely spent lays the foundations for the club in the future.

Before I continue any further let me point out that my friends and I are of ethnic origin (our parents were born overseas) and are regular followers of the

time.

Are we here to promote our game or ourselves?

It's time they got their heads out of the sand and finally realised that club football is not viable under this present structure.

What does it have to take for people to wake up?

If it's going to take more clubs like Sydney City to liquidation, well then so be it.

The introduction of top-five play offs, the transition to summer football have all been steps in the right direction, however they will not cure soccer's problems.

They go considerably deeper.

The fact is too many clubs cater for tiny pockets of the community.

The National League clubs have alienated themselves

laide City with intense passion when even Blind Freddy knows it's an Italian based team.

The same sort of situation can be applied with Adelaide Hellas and every other club in the league.

Football must take advantage of its universal appeal.

Analysis

Football must now capitalize on the change of seasons and the access to ABC-TV.

It now needs strong inspirational people, people who have vision and who have the game's best interests at heart.

People of the likes of Ian Brusasco, Tony Labbozzetta and Charles Perkins who are willing to make the hard decisions.

For the sake of the game a complete restructuring of the National League must take place.

Many people are resistant to change.

The simple fact of the matter is we all must make sacrifices for progress to be attained.

If club football is to realise the potential it has always promised, changes must occur. These changes may not be popular at first.

However, given time, they will become generally accepted.

According to the latest statistics we have 366,000 registered kids playing our game. Let's give these kids clubs they can identify with and heroes to look up to.

The foundations must be laid NOW if the game is to progress into the next century.

Basketball (an American game) has become the benchmark for national competition.

It's time we take a leaf out of their book.

Soccer made mistakes in the past, it is now time we learnt from those mistakes.

Australian football must franchise and become a truly national game.

The game is also crying out for stability.

Hence promotion and relegation must be scrapped all together.

Our country does not have the population or depth of clubs that Britain and Europe have to continue with such a system.

The day I can support an Adelaide team — for example Adelaide United which represents the entire soccer playing clubs of Adelaide and not a particular ethnic group — is the day the sleeping giant will awake.



Frank Farina takes on Israeli opponent Yehuda Amar in the World Cup at Sydney Football Stadium.

NSL.

It's high time that everybody involved in the game, in one capacity or another, took a step back and had a good look at the damage they have done to this game.

I believe many people who have become involved in the NSL did so for entirely the wrong reasons.

Some club officials and administrators may not have had the game's best interests at heart.

For as long as I can remember, club football has been steeped in politics.

Political infighting has tarnished the image of our games.

Now is the time to remove that harmful image once and for all.

It's about b.....

The financial burden on individual clubs is just too enormous.

At the present moment the NSL reminds me of a house without foundations.

If there's a good thing to emerge out of the league, it's the dramatic rise in the standard, which in turn has reflected in the performance of our national team.

Australia has begun to produce high class players of the likes of Frank Farina, Oscar Crino, Jason Polak, Paul Trimboli, Eddie Krncevic, the list goes on and on.

Some progress

The ASF in many people's eyes are sitting on a gold mine and they still don't know it.

from the Australian sports market.

Football must franchise and regionalise within the foreseeable future.

It is pointless the present clubs converting their names to district names as that is purely and simply cosmetic.

For example, Adelaide Hellas — West Adelaide, Marconi — Marconi Fairfield, Melita — Parramatta Melita, Sydney Croatia — Liverpool Croatia etc etc.

It's also a waste of money present clubs appointing full time promotions officer when these clubs have a limited market.

How do you expect Greeks, Englishmen, Yugoslavs etc to support a club like Ade-



Marconi's Bobby Catlin in action against Sydney Olympic. Crowds of this magnitude would be the making of Australian soccer

THE JOHNNY WARREN COLUMN



Sydney Golfers' day

PICTURESQUE Outlands Golf Club at Dundas will provide the scene for the Socceroo Golf Day on Tuesday May 1.

The winners will be visiting the fabulous Fairmont Resort at Leura and a lucky, or skillful, hole in one will provide a trip for two to Bangkok flying first class with Thai Airways International.

Plus a great weekend at the luxury 5 star Woolloomooloo Waters awaits another player.

The very popular Australian Made Mint Putters will also be up for grabs along with some Abel Sportswear Soccer T-Shirts and Sloppy Joes.

Reusch will again be providing prizes for the top rounds by goalkeepers.

Great sponsorship has now been obtained from such suppliers as Power Brewing, Wenscott Pty Ltd, Reusch, Thai Airways International, The Fairmont Resort, The Woolloomooloo Waters Hotel and Abel Sportswear.

Contact Sportsforce International by sending a SAE to PO Box 5065, West Chatswood, 2057. Tel: 410 9816 for entry forms and details.



Aussie Golf Day in Sydney — last year. Rear: to r: Wayne Stewart, Tony Pezzano, Steve Watson, Jim Webber, Ian Rowden. Front: Glenn Sterrey, Peter Mullen, Lee Sterrey, Tony Krslovic.

ACCOMPANY THE GAME'S BIG GUNS

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TUESDAY 1ST MAY

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BHP steels up for challenge

BY PAUL GOODWIN

BHP Austral returned to the winners' list after three successive draws at home by recording a State League record 8-0 win over North Shore United.

Three weeks earlier the two sides had drawn 0-0, but from the moment that Newcastle took the lead in the fifth minute there was never any doubt about the direction this game was going to take.

Howard Tredinnick was instrumental in setting up countless attacking moves and it was his cross that set up Robbie Porter for the first goal.

Porter claimed four more, including one that most observers felt belonged to Dougie Elphick, whose angled shot Porter helped into the net.

Two of Porter's goals were from the penalty spot, but his sharpness in front of goal was well rewarded.

Elphick scored twice and had a shot cleared off the line by Ian Gillan late in the game, to deny him a deserved hat-trick.

The locals were two up inside 12 minutes when Porter beat the offside trap and had his shot partially smothered by goalie Craig Thornton only for Elphick to tap in the loose ball.

Six minutes later a diving header by Elphick from a Scott

Gresham cross after a Wayne Bailey run made it 3-0.

Thornton failed to collect a David Jones cross in the 28th and Porter bundled the ball over the line for number four, but there was more to come before the break.

After Porter had scored his third in the 40th minute, he made it 6-0 from the spot when Thornton was ruled to have fouled him just inside the box two minutes later.

In the second half North Shore, who had created several good chances themselves, began to look like a side waiting for an interminable 45 minutes to end.

Austral got their seventh when Thornton puched out an Elphick cross and Simon Brandt picked his spot with a low drive from the edge of the box.

Number eight came when Porter was pushed needlessly by Peter Norman and the penalty ace converted with ease.

North Shore carried on attacking the Newcastle goal and David Bennett's fierce drive in the 58th minute was tipped over by Craig Carter.

Other shots from Craig Bass, Tony Gough and Wayne Pierce all came close, but this was not Unied's day and they were left to lick their wounds.

BHP Austral had one

of those days when everything worked, admittedly, but they are going to be very hard to beat by even the strongest sides.

North Shore United will have time to get things right before the premiership gets under way in mid-May and will think long and hard about just what went wrong.

Any signs of complacency about their ability to handle the First Division opposition would have been wiped away after this performance, but they are sure to bounce back.

BHP AUSTRAL: Carter, Bowen (Burt), Jones, Boogaard, Tredinnick, Gresham, Devnon, Porter, Bailey, Brandt, Elphick.

NORTH SHORE UNITED: Thornton, Gillan, Gough, Sutherland, Pierce, Hunter (Nile), Ferguson, Bennett, Bass, Savidis (Norman), Jeffery.

W'GONG MACEDONIA v AVALA postponed

Wollongong Macedonia had their scheduled game with Avala called off and hope to re-stage the game tonight (Wednesday).

There is also the problem of organising the Under 19 game and the same goes for the previous week's postponed fixture against Sydney Macedonia, since points count from both grades in this competition.

Alan Reis hat-trick

A superb second-half performance and a hat-trick from Alan Reis earned Canberra Croatia a 3-1 NSW Cup win over Polonia at Deakin Oval on Sunday.

It was a quality 45 minutes of football, especially in contrast to a first half of goal-less stalemate, and one that underlines the message of the recently completed pre-season tournament Croatia is the team to beat in 1990.

Polonia, a skilful, direct team with some big men at the back, had survived until half-time and clearly it was going to take something special to break through.

And it was exactly that which was provided in the 55th minute.

Ned Zelic, at the back of the home defence, sweeps a majestic long pass to Tony Lemezzina on the left; Lemezzina fired in a cross to Ray Junna who in front of an off-balance Polonia defence flicked the ball on for Reis to administer the coup de grace.

Croatia's second came four minutes later, with Reis angling the ball past Polonia keeper Derek Jenkins.



Howard Tredinnick

CANTERBURY 2 ROCKDALE 0

Canterbury played a controlled game against Rockdale at Arlingdon Oval on Sunday and were rewarded with a fine 2-0 win.

A good 600 people were on hand to see Rockdale, who beat Polonia a week earlier, begin full of purpose but their game fell away and Canterbury hit the lead in the 26th minute.

Craig Hill was brought down and after Keith Warren had saved the first shot, Spiros Hantzis hit his follow-up shot from the penalty spot, into the net.

Louis Dounis and Bruno Beddoni both missed chances for their respective sides before Dounis put his team beyond the reach of Rockdale in the 75th minute.

An under-hit back pass intended for Warren was intercepted by Dounis who gleefully accepted the chance to place the ball out of reach of the Rockdale custodian.

Canterbury are hoping to play their deferred game with Warringah on Anzac Day if a suitable venue can be found and the five-round competition is already beginning to get a backlog of games as the wet weather looks set to continue.

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE: Kyprianou, Adamou, Godzik, Hantzis, J. Radman, Hill (Dounis), Divljak, B. Radman (Papoythis), Mellissourgos, Kalogeras, Oustambasidis.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN: Warren, Segreto, Buchanan, D. Wilson, Krkovski, Willis, Kerry, Deveridge, Boddoni, Porter, Campbell.

Sydney Macedonia were due to play Sutherland at Jensen Park, but a decision on the fate of this important clash was left until 10am on the day of the game.

It was soon realised that the game could not go on and supporters were then able to travel across town to see the Sydney Olympic/Preston game, while many others opted for Canterbury v Rockdale.

Sutherland, meanwhile, would have preferred to know a little earlier so that other arrangements could have been made.

RESULTS — GROUP A

Inter-Monaro 0 Warringah-Freshwater 0, Canberra Croatia 3 Polonia 1, Canterbury Marrickville 2 (Hantzis pen), Dounis Rockdale Ilinden 0.

GROUP B

Wollongong Macedonia v Avala, Sydney Macedonia v Sutherland postponed, BHP Austral 8 (Elphick 2, Porter 5) Brandt, North Shore United 0.

Inter Monaro just holds on

BY GRAHAM COOKE



STEVE BRYANT: as fit as ever.

WARRINGAH Freshwater survived a difficult first half against Inter Monaro at the Marco Polo Ground on Saturday, then roared back to almost snatch the game with a greatly improved showing in the second 45 minutes.

Monaro made its best start of any match it has played in Canberra this season and with less than five minutes on the clock Robert Chicco went tantalisingly close.

Freshwater's attacking moves were few and far between — a long throw from Morson to the head of the incoming Shane Panetia almost fooled the Monaro defence but Panetia did not take the chance cleanly and the danger passed.

The tide of the game changed and it became disappointingly clear to the home supporters that if any side was going to win it was more than likely going to be Warringah.

That possibility hardened with the introduction of Frank Gigliotti into the game with just under a quarter of an hour left.

The burly substitute made his presence felt within seconds when he was off-target with an overhead kick following a corner. That, and a couple of penetrating runs down the middle, made life difficult for the Monaro defence in the closing stages.

But once again that defence gave notice it is not in the recent tradition of erratic Monaro back lines. Goalkeeper Steve Hoszowski exudes competence while Steve Bryant, as fit as at any time during his years in Canberra soccer, moves this way and that plugging the dykes, putting out the fires before things get out of hand.

It is no coincidence these two have been in partnership during the last three games in which the team has conceded just one goal.

Monaro lost the youth game 4-3.

INTER MONARO: Hoszowski, Grasscock, Alchin (Maric 46), Bryant, Djordjeski, Fernandez, Carbona, Danielle, Popovich, Janke, Chicco.

WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Mikoletic, Grasscock, Panetia, Etherington, Osloski, Morson, Grimes (Mas 63), McBreen, Gimarosti, (Gigliotti 76), Ruperto, De Geglie.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

SATURDAY APRIL 14

NSW CHALLENGE CUP

GROUP A

Inter Monaro v Rockdale Marco Polo

GROUP B

BHP Austral v Wollongong Mac Austral Park

DIVISION 2

Campbelltown v Mt Druitt Bensley Rd 6pm
Central Coast v Manly Warringah Plum Park 8pm
Auburn Yugal v Orange Waratahs Mona Park
Waverley v Rosebery Waverley Oval

DIVISION 3

Uni of NSW v Lemnos Allstars Little Bay
Banksstown v North Ryde RSL Jensen Park

SUNDAY APRIL 15

GROUP A

Polonia v Canterbury Chopin Park
(may be transferred to Easter Monday)

GROUP B

Sutherland v Avala Seymour Shaw
Sydney Macedonia v North Shore Jensen Park

DIVISION 2

Dulwich Hill v Granville Chile Arlington Oval
Fairfield City v Gladesville Knight Park
Southern Dists v Petersham Ernie Smith

DIVISION 3

Mt Pritchard v Cyprus Utd Mt Pritchard
Concordia v Canterbury & Dist Marrickville Oval
Bathurst 75 v Hills Utd Procter Park
West Wanderers v Port Hacking Harold Read Res

MONDAY APRIL 16

NSW CHALLENGE CUP

GROUP A

Canberra Croatia v Warringah-Fresh Deakin Oval

DIVISION 2

Granville Chile v Central Coast Garside Park
(Wed April 18, Waverley v Petersham, Sydney Athletic Field 8.15pm)

All games kick-off with U19 at 1pm.

Except BHP Austral, on 2.30pm with U19s at 12.30pm.



ALAN REIS

The third goal was the result of a piece of misfortune for Polonia's busy full back Quin Chan. An attempted clearance ended up in Reis' path and the striker wasted no time in rounding Jenkins to complete his hat-trick.

Croatia's chance of completing a fourth consecutive game with a clean sheet was spoilt by Janec Nowicki two minutes from time.

No-one could close him down and he calmly cracked a shot past Anthony Giannasca into the far corner of the net.

CANBERRA CROATIA: Giannasca, Zelic, Marcina (Serena 75), Mazis (Dukic 60), Dunn, Young Kulscar, Fratezina, Reis, Lemezzina, Junna.

POLONIA: Jenkins, C. Thompson, Chau, Lasek, Robertson (Minol 70), Beam, Colusso, Bratt (Sepping 66), Janduda, Nowicki.

REFEREE: D. Watson.

CROWD: 901.

— GRAHAM COOKE

NEW SOUTH WALES

CHALLENGE CUP

Inter Monaro v Warringah	0-0	3-4
Wollongong v Avala	cancelled	
BHP Austral v North Shore	8-0	
Canberra v Polonia	3-1	1-0
Canterbury v Rockdale	2-0	1-2
Sydney Mac v Sutherland	cancelled	

SECOND DIVISION

Waverley v Fairfield City	2-2	2-4
Orange Waratahs v Southern Dist	1-3	1-8
Manly Warringah v Campbelltown Vik.	0-1	1-1
Gradesville H'by v Central Coast	cancelled	
Gladesville H'by v Dulwich Hill	cancelled	
Mt Druitt v Auburn Yugal	cancelled	
Petersham v Rosebery	2-3	0-2

THIRD DIVISION

Cyprus United v Bathurst 75	cancelled	
Port Hacking v Uni of NSW	cancelled	
Canterbury & Dist v Mt Pritchard	cancelled	
Concordia v Banksstown	0-0	1-2
Hills United v West Wanderers	cancelled	
Lemnos Allstars v North Ryde RSL	1-1	1-0

FEDERATION LEAGUE FOUR

Nineveh Eagles v Colo Colo	cancelled	
Rooty Hill Gunner v Croatia Syd Jnrs	cancelled	
Spanish Club v Concord Juniors	3-1	2-1
Transandinos v Arncliffe	0-2	3-0
Hawkesbury Dist v Hadjuk Rangers	1-1	5-2
SSC Zagreb v Belmore Hercules	2-3	3-0

FEDERATION LEAGUE FIVE

Ashour Star v Sporting Peru	cancelled	
Macquarie Uni v Sydney Uni	1-0	0-3
Prospect United v GNS United	cancelled	
West Dist Hellas v Maccabi Hakoah	7-0	2-0
Lithgow Workmen v CSI Schofields	5-2	1-2
Alexander v Chile Sports	3-0	5-1

FEDERATION LEAGUE SIX

St Josephs v Assyrian	cancelled	
Balmain v Pontian Eagles	1-3	2-1
Liverpool Olympic v Cobreloa	cancelled	
Pagewood Botany v Abruzzi	1-0	1-1
Liverpool City v Fogolar Furlan	cancelled	

Vieri on the slide — Jancev at risk

BY GREG BLAKE

IT started as a remarkably accurate 'Sun' newspaper report ten days ago which declared that Brunswick Juventus coach Roberto Vieri would not see out that weekend in charge of the first team.

Vieri, the former Marconi favourite who crossed from Thomas-town to Juve for the 1990 Victorian State League season late last year, did indeed lose his job.

But the drama and intrigue of yet another coaching merry-go-round story wasn't lost on the Victorian press.

And now a second club — NSL outfit Preston — has inadvertently become involved.

The story, unfinished as we went to press, unveiled itself as follows:

• **DAY ONE** — Peter Desira reports that Vieri will be sacked before the weekend is out, regardless of Juve's result that weekend at Morwell Falcons. John Gardiner is named as new coach.

• **DAY TWO** — Sunday's 'Herald' quotes Juventus president Joe Mirabella as saying that the club "can't swop and change coaches every week," and that Vieri "will remain at the club until at least the end of the season." It is suggested that although Vieri's appointment was unpopular from the beginning, the club was retaining him to see out his \$37,000 contract.

• **DAY THREE** — First team duties are taken from Vieri and given — for the time being — to assistant coach John Colangeli. According to



Fans will remember Roberto Vieri, one of the greatest exponents of the game to come to Australia. Now his coaching future in Melbourne is in a shambles.

Mirabella Vieri hasn't been sacked, but rather he has been 're-trenched'.

"Vieri will coach the under 10s if he has to," Mirabella says.

• **DAY FOUR** — Favourite for the job is John Gardiner who, apparently had been wooed pre-season by the club and had been seen in attendance at Juve games this season.

• **DAY FIVE** — Juve team manager Georgio Pastorini resigns in protest at Vieri's demotion and Gardiner apparently cannot commit himself to Juventus — yet.

According to an ASW source the job is his if he wants it but Gardiner isn't making any comment.

• **DAY SIX** — Col-

angeli watches on as new names like that of John Margaritis and Miron Bleiberg are mentioned should Gardiner not take the job.

It is revealed that Gardiner has been approached by Preston Makedonia, despite denials by Makedonia. Preston insists no decisions have been taken on the future of current boss Ljube Jancev.

• **DAY SEVEN** — With the Preston job up for grabs and the Brunswick outfit still to make a decision, it is anybody's guess just who is set to do what.

Also in line for the Preston job is former boss Andon Donevski, who is said to be keen to return and will bring at least two new

players with him to Connor Reserve.

As of last weekend Juve was still without a coach, Jancev with little future at Connor Reserve (apparently). Gardiner was undecided and the umpteen other names mentioned as possible coaches of both clubs including Sydney Croatia's Tony Vrzina are waiting in the wings.

At this stage your humble correspondent was awaiting the next move with bated breath.

ASW will inform its readers of the outcome of this latest Victorian soap opera if and when the clubs decide it is time to play it straight down the line with everyone involved.

South Melbourne's home advantage

BY GREG BLAKE

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas president **George Vasilopoulos** is certainly one of the most outspoken characters in the game.

This time around the Hellas supremo has been complaining about his team's chances of a League and Cup double being spoiled because the club lost its wrestle with the NSL and must play tonight's Cup semi-final against Adelaide City in Adelaide.

When the decision to play the tie in Adelaide was taken, Vasilopoulos fired in a howling protest to both executive director Peter Russell and NSL chairman Sam Pappasavas.

Although Vasilopoulos didn't get his own way he certainly hasn't taken the decision on the chin.

"Adelaide City has won the Cup for the past couple of years and I doubt if it played two games away from home in that time."

"They (the NSL) might as well hand it (Adelaide City) the

Cup now and get it over with," he was quoted as telling the Melbourne 'Herald'.

Well, it is time to get the facts straight.

Adelaide City has won the Cup just once (1989) in this decade, not for the past couple of years, as was suggested.

And, as for cup ties, South Melbourne has done pretty well for itself with nine of its last 11 cup games played at either Olympic Park or Middle Park in Melbourne.

Adelaide City has played just four of its seven cup ties in Adelaide during the same period from 1987 to this year.

That sounds pretty fair to me.

And for the record in South Melbourne's last two semi-final appearances (in 1987 and 1989) the club was drawn at home in Melbourne, the last time against, ironically, Adelaide City on Anzac Day 1989.

South Melbourne's last two cup ties against Adelaide City, a semi-final last year and a quarter final in

1988, were both played in Melbourne.

So that's the record as it stands.

Whilst on the subject of South Melbourne Hellas, I hope someone of authority at that club has taken it upon himself to discipline one young member of the committee for his performance at the recent Melbourne derby against Melbourne Croatia at Somers Street.

During one particularly heated on-field clash the brash, young committeeman bashed his fist into the press-box wall (what he was doing there in the first place I do not know) and, at the top of his voice, called Croatia's Francis Awaritefe a "fucking black f---er".

Not only was his racist remark unwarranted, but the volume with which he uttered the expletives made certain he offended every one of the 20-odd people in the press area.

That included one teenage girl who was sitting in to do the ground announcements.

Davo brushes criticism aside

BY GREG BLAKE

JUST a quick note to Melbourne Croatia supporters — get off Alan Davidson's back.

'Davo', the former Socceroo and South Melbourne star, is one of the main reasons why Melbourne Croatia is pressing for

its first-ever QUIT NSL championship.

Indeed I would suggest that without the remarkable talents of Davidson this season the Somers Street mob wouldn't be in the position it is in now.

And yet some so-called fans have had the notion that Davidson, who would still walk into the Australian team any time he wanted to, is working as some sort of saboteur against Croatia's cause.

The suggestion is too ridiculous to contemplate, and yet I know that 'Davo' has copped more than his share of stick by a minority of unthinking fans in re-

cent weeks.

The gentleman that he is, Davidson refused to make any comment to ASW about these trouble-makers.

In fact all he wants to do is concentrate on getting Melbourne Croatia into the 1990 Grand Final and then going on to win it.

Davidson, as fair a player as one could see and a class act on and off the field, has had to cop stick over his headed own goal against former club South Melbourne in Round 22.

If that wasn't enough, he was blamed, unfairly, for conceding Sydney

Croatia's late penalty in the 3-3 draw in Sydney.

The fact of the matter is that Davidson wasn't within a bull's roar of the incident anyway.

I never cease to be amazed by the attitudes of some supporters of the game.

If I was a Croatia fan I'd be down on my hands and knees thanking Davidson for what has been a wonderful season by him and the club.

If anything is to cost Croatia the premiership it will be if the players have anything other than performing at their best on their minds.



FRANCIS AWARITEFE — one of the most exciting imports from Britain in recent years was the butt of racist comments at the Melbourne Croatia v South Melbourne game — HECTOR CRAARSCO photo.



John Filan possesses potential unlimited

BY MIKE JOHNSON

SEVERAL years ago in Wollongong I spotted a giant goalkeeper playing in NSW Second Division for Penrith.

I told Frank Arok he was the best young goalkeeper I had seen in Australia and he should sign him.

Subsequently Arok did sign him. His name was Mike Gibson.

Last season, watching a second division game between Sydney Macedonia and Bankstown, I saw another good young goalkeeper.

His name was John Filan.

He looked the part, was excellent in the air during the pre-match warm up, though he did show a technical fault when saving shots on the ground with his body position going backward rather than "attacking" the ball.

Filan at 20 years old was on loan to Sydney Macedonia from St George.

He looked pretty useful in the game against Bankstown, without having much to do.

A few weeks later Macedonia took out the premiership of Second Division and went up to State League First Division.

Filan immediately reverted back to St George for the summer season of National League and that proved to be a most fortuitous happening for Filan, for St George and for Australian soccer.

Mike Gibson had an operation on a knee, this put Filan straight into the St George team for the start of the summer season.

I watched Filan in his second game and was very impressed, then again two games later and was even more impressed.

Watching him on about his sixth game for Saints, when once more he performed brilliantly, I said to myself that this lad already was the best goalkeeper in Australia, bar none.

This assessment was confirmed on further observation some weeks later.

Subsequently, the points ratings began to highlight the impact this young man was having on Quit National League soccer.

Saved club

St George would already be relegated this season were it not for this young man.

He is the best goalkeeper in the country; and is the best goalkeeper I have seen in this country during the quarter of a century I have been here.

And that is without having seen him for the last three months because of concentration on my own State League Division 2 side, Southern Districts.

Filan is not only brilliant in the air and has excellent skills and reflexes for shot stopping, he is also so mentally sharp.

I speak from experience.

During 21 years of professional coaching I have always coached my goalkeepers and these have included internationals Jim Fraser (St George), Mike Fraser (APIA), Martyn Crook (Adelaide Hellas) and Alan Maher (Sutherland and subsequently Marconi).

Filan is already better than any of those four excellent goalkeepers.

His anticipation to cut out through balls hit past his defence is tremendous.

His speed of thought is matched by his speed of foot.

You can observe the sharpness of his mind as he distributes the ball.

Quick! safe! sure! as the ball is despatched with immaculate throwing technique, done with impressive calmness and confidence.

This type of confidence is only seen in someone so young when he possesses exceptional mental and physical attributes.

The attributes champions are made of.

Top class

Ron Lord is declared by many to be the best ever Australian goalkeeper.

I saw Ron play and later went to his goalkeeper training sessions when he coached the goalies at Bankstown.

He, along with more recent goalkeeper coaches such as Fred Wall, Ron Corry and Nick Sokoloff who in Sydney readily come to mind, have been active in the development of a series of fine goalies.

Sokoloff over his many years at St George helped turn a previously average, short of stature Jim Fraser into a fine

goalkeeper, good enough to help take us to our only World Cup finals in West Germany in 1974.

Now at Marconi, Sokoloff is helping a heavyweight Bob Catlin attain the agility and the ability to hold down a spot in the nation's top club team, whilst also making the Australian team.

What a disappointment Bobby's Australian debut performance against Moscow Torpedo must have been to both of them after their months and months of hard graft.

Ron Corry has helped a host of young goalies make it into the professional ranks and of course worked with Tony Franken at Sydney Croatia.

St George's Fred Wall did well with the talented Mike Gibson and now also has the shining jewel John Filan — how rich can you get.

Hopefully, Filan will stay in Australia.

I am sure he could be of enormous benefit in the marketing and development of our soccer.

Most of all though, it is his outstanding goalkeeping ability we must seek to retain in this country.



John Filan, the St George tyro, grabs a high ball against Adelaide Hellas in Adelaide — JANUSZ KAMMA

Libertadores Cup latest

BY MARIO ETCHART

PROGRESO has won the Libertadores Cup Group 4, after defeating runner up Defensor Sporting 4-0.

Both Uruguayan teams finished with six points and in the play off for first place the current Uruguayan champion, playing its best match of the series, deservedly claimed first place in the opening qualifying round.

Progreso took the initiative from the beginning of the encounter and dominated right throughout.

Although Defensor defended well in the first half, Progreso's pressure in the last 45 minutes was unstoppable.

Striker Johnny Miqueiro scored twice in the 64th and 74th and Prospero Silva and midfielder Luis Berger added the other two in the 82nd and 88th respectively.



Progreso's victory determined that the Uruguayan champion will meet the third placed club from Group 1 in the second qualifying round, while Defensor Sporting will face River Plate of Argentina.

Independiente beat River Plate in the all-Argentinian derby for group 2.

Both teams are already qualified for the second round because of the withdrawal of the Colombian teams.

The Red Devils won the second leg 1-0 after a 0-0 result in the first encounter.

Two minutes before the end a powerful free kick from replacement Elvio Vazquez was deflected by River Plate's goalkeeper Miguel and Independiente's striker Alfaro Moreno took the rebound and converted the only goal in a very quiet match.

The lack of precision and poor control of the ball from both sides were the pattern of the encounter, although Independiente was the better team on the park.

Independiente will face Pepeganga of Venezuela, who finished third behind the Uruguayans Progreso and Defensor in group 4.

In group 5, Paraguayan champion Olimpia reached a very difficult 2-1 victory over Brazilian Vasco da Gama at home, thanks to a brilliant display from local goalkeeper Ever Almeida, and to striker Adriano Samaniego who scored the winner in the 82nd minute.

EDITOR

No section of the media did more than AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY to advocate the worthwhile cause of appropriate reform for Soccer football in Australia over recent years.

ASW began its campaign at a time when it was highly unpopular to do so, and when the powers that be took umbrage against the progressive views expressed.

Later on, it became clear that some of the greatest opponents of ASW's initiative were in favour of at least certain of the changes.

They could see that, properly conducted, a city by city national league — usually mentioned by them as a maximum of 12 clubs — should result in a big leap forward.

ASW said that promotion and relegation was not the answer to progress in Australia — instancing Australian rules, rugby league and basketball — the successful team sports.

Fragmentation has been one of the banes of soccer's existence.

The reasons for lack of improvement should not be over simplified, in fact there are a few cases of clubs which have made giant leaps forward.

No-one should expect immediate wonders, but a new era must come now or later because the game will gradually pass into the hands of those who know no other home but Australia.

Marconi is one club which was on the inevitable pattern of decline when it decided to invest in the new generation, and has brought results that have moved it into top class in the attendance stakes.

Melbourne Croatia and Adelaide City are others to show real enterprise.

But, on the other hand too many clubs stagger on, burdened by the weight of their lack of support or monumental management faults.

To disgress for a moment, the ASF presidency has past from Ian Brusasco to John Constantine.

Mr Constantine now has the task of facing up to reform — a situation in which it could be said (in a manner of speaking) there is neither Jew nor Greek.

The first judgment to be made on his stewardship involves the will to provide the Dr Graham Bradley report *in toto* to the media.

This is essential so that there is a wide ranging public debate on the recommendations.

To exclude public interest and information would be detrimental to the future of the game.

It is no secret that, had Ian Brusasco survived the ASF ballot, this would have occurred.

At this stage it is appropriate to acknowledge the outstanding work that he put in for two years to provide the basis of a firm foundation for the sport in Australia.

His stability, prudence and financial experience will be difficult to replace.

The only area in which affairs moved slowly was in providing Soccerroo opponents, although in Australian soccer in 1989/90 money did not grow on trees.

With Brusasco went his sounding board, Ron Archer.

Even if he was fated not to last, it will be very interesting indeed to see who soccer gets to replace his business, commercial television and sports administration knowledge.

If the game is to revert to something like 17 man executive control, then heaven help it.

It is believed that some interesting points arose in recent soccer politics, not the least of which concerned Western Australia.

Soccer will be looking to chairman Constantine for clear, long range decisions on the NSL — the cities, the clubs, removal of promotion and relegation, appeal to the entire soccer public, streamlining administration, club licensing, national team coaches and policy.

The election of chairman caused a log jam which will have to be unstuck.

In essence, much of the future of soccer depends upon the quality of the administrators, the imagination and drive that they can produce.

New chairman John Constantine has his chance to put his best foot forward and make THE RIGHT THINGS HAPPEN.

ATTENDANCES in Italy have hit an all-time low.

It's been downhill all the way since the 1984-85 season's record match average of 38,872.

Now that average stands at just 26,000.

A survey of stay-away fans blamed higher prices and crowd-violence for the slump.

Another factor has been the closure of Rome's Olympic Stadium due to World Cup work.

City neighbours Roma and Lazio are now playing to a maximum 30,000 fans in the old Flaminio stadium instead of their usual 75,000.

Zlatko's ambitions remain strong

FRANK SCICLUNA INTERVIEWS
MARCONI'S SCORING MACHINE



INJURED super striker Zlatko Nastevski has a strong message to pass on to the vast number of soccer critics in this country.

"For goodness sake, let's all stop complaining about the negative aspects of our game and concentrate instead on the huge progress that has been made in the last few years".



The 32-year-old Marconi goal machine whose Socceroo debut ended in disaster last January, has had plenty of time to think about where football is heading since suffering a knee injury which put him out of business for the season.

"Sure we've got problems — what country doesn't," he asks, "but instead of wasting most of our time and energy knocking everything and everybody, people within the game should work together to continue its development."

In the four years since leaving Yugoslavia to join NSW State League club Rockdale, Nastevski has seen plenty of evidence to convince him that the future is not as dim as some critics predict, with the quality of local talent coming through the ranks very much to the forefront.

"Australia must be doing something right if it can produce the number of players who are currently earning their living overseas," he points out.

"The most exciting thing about it is the fact that the more success they find, the more incentive our youngsters will have to follow them".

The common view that our game will suf-

fer from the loss of its best talent is one that's not shared by Nastevski.

"Far from it," he responds, "Australia has a much higher profile in Europe these days because of what Krncevic, Johnston, Dorico, Patikas, Farina and all the others have done."

"Their success is our success and every time a young Aussie makes it overseas, the respect for soccer in this country increases."

Nastevski has also noticed a much higher level of professionalism from most of our leading clubs, and, while he admits that there's still a way to go, he's convinced that most are on the right track.

Facilities have improved dramatically in the last couple of years and the signs are there that they will continue.

"Once Sydney Croatia and Blacktown City complete their new grandstands in the next few months, fans will be provided with quite acceptable facili-



Zlatko Nastevski

ties," he said.

Melbourne Croatia's Somers Street complex is fast beginning to take shape, while St George has finalised plans for its upgrading.

Together with Hindmarsh in Adelaide, Marconi Stadium, Wollongong's Brandon Park and Melita Stadium —

which only needs its lights upgraded — the position is now quite healthy.

"It becomes vastly superior to what we had just a few years ago".

The next step Nastevski would like to see taken is perhaps the most difficult, but one that in his view simply has to happen.

"Clubs must take the plunge and introduce a full time professional set up," he believes.

"The benefits will be enormous."

"Players will be encouraged to stay in the game after retirement and pass on their knowledge to juniors."

"Clubs will therefore be able to produce their own talent rather than be forced to outlay big money in transfer fees."

Nastevski claims that, under the present system, soccer is going through a vicious cycle.

"Experienced players are drifting out of the game once they hang up their boots," he explains.

"At the same time we have thousands of youngsters who have the basic talent but few coaches capable of developing it."

"The result is that the majority of these kids also give the game away and clubs are caught in a vacuum."

"Until such time as more players are given

the incentive to turn towards coaching, the number of junior teams should be reduced."

"Our leading clubs need to concentrate on quality rather than simply a large quantity of juniors, otherwise the talented kids will be dragged down to the level of the inferior ones".

In his own junior days with Vardar in Yugoslavia, Nastevski was taken under the guidance of a little known coach by the name of Vanko Trpevski.

But even today, he has no hesitation in saying "For me, he was the best coach in the world."

"I spent the most critical years between 13 and 18 with him and in that time, he taught me everything I know."

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 20

Pacific — Umbro



APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

— Soccer Camp



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Camp Director



Frank Arok
National Coach



Fred Wall
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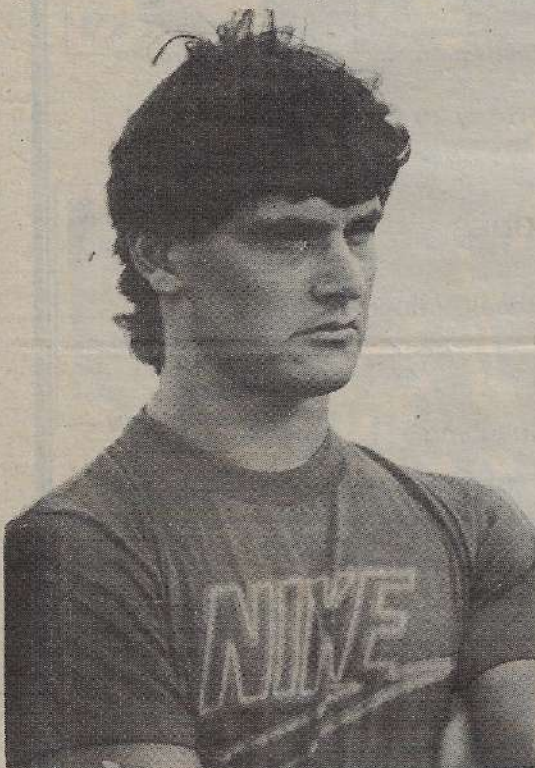
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Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

Adelaide City last week relaxed for the guerrilla program against Marconi, South Melbourne and Melbourne Croatia. Coach Zoran Matic cut back on the players' rigorous schedule to conserve their energies for the big tests. And Matic is sure his players need no motivation to lift to the challenge. "If they do there is something wrong," he said. "From here we shall take each game as it comes." Matic sees no psychological significance for the playoffs from the fixtures. "We are soccer players not boxers," said Matic. "If a boxer loses he may go in a bit scared the next time he faces the man who has beaten him. But in soccer one mistake can mean the difference between winning and losing. I don't know who will be the toughest opponent. Marconi plays a bit more, with South Melbourne and Melbourne Croatia having a bit more bite. We shall just have to see if we are good enough. I believe we have the skill to compete. The most skilful sides are at the top of the league."

FORMER Adelaide City legend Dixie Deans will be back in SA for Sunday's clash with Melbourne Croatia. The former Celtic star and City striker of the mid-1970s should play in an old boys curtain-raiser. Several functions have been organised for the chunky ball of Scottish magic.



Canterbury Marrickville Olympic's bid for NSW honours will be aided by the signing of Chris Coutropoulos. He is a full Greek international who played with First Division club, Panionios.

NSW Second Division club Campbelltown Vikings have engaged the services of former Australian international goalkeeper Ron Corry to instruct their own 'keepers in a weekly session.

Corry was last involved with Sydney Croatia and the move is sure to have long-term benefits for this forward thinking club.

The Vikings are also delighted that the allied Macarthur District has won the right to stage the 1990 National under 15 championships.

Plans are for games to be played at the Macarthur headquarters Linwood Park, but Campbelltown officials are hoping that some matches can be played at Bensley Road as curtain-raiser to a Second Division game on the opening day of the tournament, June 15.

ADELAIDE Hellas striker Billy Wright was not impressed by the actions of a Socceroo in the recent encounter with South Melbourne. The big Kiwi alleges the offending player, who had a cut lip, spat a mouthful of blood on him during a break in play. No action was taken though Wright made his views plain to the referee in charge.

It didn't take long for the word to spread when Preston Makedonia official Alex Andonovski told the press that all of Preston's current squad was up for sale. At least six Preston players were approached in the two

days before club president Chris Jankulovski denied the fire sale.

Two Victorian State League and two NSW State League clubs headed the mad rush for Preston players. NSW club Rockdale Ilinden tried for Socceroo George Jolevski and Warren Spink.

Trust the NSL to get the job done — almost. NSL financed promotions on a leading Melbourne AM radio station recently (during an Aussie rules broadcast) and gave the details of Melbourne matches for that weekend. "And tomorrow Sunshine George Cross takes on top side Marconi at CHAPLIN Reserve", boomed the promo. The club hasn't played at Chaplin Reserve since the 1989 season!

people who came up with the 1990 State League fixtures should be sent to jail.

ONE week is, as the cliché goes, a long time in football. That was clearly illustrated in Round 21 and 22 of the QNSL competition when Wollongong City was subject to the single biggest turn-around in National League history. In the space of seven days the Wolves knocked off Adelaide Hellas 7-0 only to lose the very next game to St George 6-0. No side has come close to matching the 13 goal difference in successive weeks in QNSL history.

CHARLEY Villani might be ready to give Adelaide City a boost for the NSL finals. The mercurial midfielder came back with a goal against Blacktown City



Canberra Croatia midfielder Stan Dukic shows off the club's 1990 playing strip which bears the logo of its new major sponsor, the Canberra Building Society. The deal is reported to be worth around \$30,000 to the NSW State League club in the first year of a three-year association.

Well known Fawknor coach Cedo Cirkovic has been found not guilty of a charge of bringing the game into disrepute at a VSF tribunal hearing last week. Comments attributed to the former long-time Melbourne City JUST coach, printed in the Melbourne 'Sun' newspaper last week, landed him in hot water. Cirkovic was alleged to have suggested that the

and looks finally to have rid himself of the injuries which have plagued his season.

Marconi's hopes of a third title have been aided by a lessening of the injury and suspension list. Once again there is extra pressure for places in the squad. Quality players such as Senad Glavovic and Gerry Gomez have been outside the starting line-ups.

COACHES ON THE BENCH IN CANBERRA



Coaches can be happy sometimes! The pressure is obviously off after a training session at the Level 3 coaches course recently held in Canberra. Pictured left to right are: Eddie Thomson (national director), Ron Smith (Australian Institute of Sport head coach), Tom Sermanni (Canberra Croatia coach) and Steve Darby (staff coach and national women's team coach).

YOUNG stars Tony Vidmar and Carl Veart must figure highly in award voting for the Young Player of the Year. Both have been among Adelaide City's most consistent players this season. Socceroo Alex Tobin, probably the most consistent defender this season in Australia, also would be a top senior player candidate, with coach Zoran Matic firmly in the running for top coach.

St George coach Frank Arok was uncharacteristically restrained after the NSL announced that he had copped a \$2,000 fine on a charge of bringing the game into disrepute. His alleged reference to referees' conduct as "scandalous" was part of the cause of the problem. However to slap on a \$2000 impost appears a mite on the heavy side.



Lawrie McKinna came back too late after injury to see if he could turn Blacktown City's dismal year around. He recovered from a damaged kidney, and last week was set to appear against Apia's Darren Stewart. There was plenty of pre-match verbal slugging as Stewart lives with the McKinna family.

IT didn't take long for Marconi's Robbie Wheatley to set up Sydney Olympic's Robert Hooker for some school visitations. Wheatley was acting in his capacity of development officer for the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

Kiwi international and Sydney Olympic utility man Robert Ironside is no stranger to being a fulltime footballer. He will be playing the winter season with Newcastle hopefuls, BHP Austral. It isn't that long since he helped Mt Wellington in the New Zealand National League on loan from Olympic.

Gary Phillips' surfboard may not be getting as much use over the next couple of years. The personable Sydney Olympic mid-field dynamo will be turning out for BHP Austral along with team mate, Robert Ironside. He has been well known for his feats at surf carnivals for some years. He began in soccer and surfing at his home town of Sawtell, near sunny Coffs Harbour on the NSW North Coast.

For the first time in many years, deposed Australian Soccer Federation chairman Ian Brusasco no longer has an official post in soccer. They say his golf is already showing a remarkable improvement.



Things have been quiet on the National Indoor (Futsal) League front since the season climaxed in December. But executive director Jim Roberts says that a genuine, streamlined National League is emerging. Better venues have been arranged, and again a top class Perth side will be strutting its stuff.

There is talk that Tony Vrzina would be prepared to return to Melbourne if an acceptable coaching job turned up. He was only recently appointed as Sydney Croatia's 1990/91 coach. The NSL is dealing with reports of his alleged conduct, contained in reports involving referees Chris Bambridge and John Fraser.

It is more than a rumour that some Sydney Croatia players received a tremendous culture shock when a section of their fans expected them to present Melbourne Croatia with the points in their recent encounter. The Melbourne club is in the hunt for honours, whilst Sydney is not. Behaviour of this nature will react against both this well-supported club as well as the code as a whole.

Paul Lewis hat-trick boosts Bergers

BY MARC BREKAU

BOX HILL 1 HEIDELBERG 6

Heidelberg blitzed Box Hill at Wembley Park in the tightest scoring match of the State League to date.

Heidelberg's hero on the day was Paul Lewis, who scored his first hat-trick of the season.

The away side took the lead after five minutes when a Willie Raynes cross found Nick Ousalkas who headed from close range.

Shortly afterwards Ousalkas left the field nursing an injury. Paul Lewis made it 2-0 20 minutes later.

In the second half Raynes again laid on a cross which Lewis put away with ease after 10 minutes.

Les Carter made it 4-0 from outside the penalty area 10 minutes later.

Box Hill had no answer to a side which has always threatened to show its full potential in the State League.

This fact was confirmed when Stuart Canell fired home a pneul after Angie Goutzoulis had been brought down.

Lewis secured his hat-trick afterwards when he tapped in a cross from Alan Scott.

Box Hill scored through McIntyre, but would have been more anxious to hear the final whistle blown that celebrate their goal.

NORTHCOTE CITY 2 MELB CITY JUST 0

JUST found that their performance was inconsistent against a Northcote side which allowed them very few scoring opportunities.

Northcote opened their account early in the first half when a corner was cleared out to the edge of the penalty area. Nick Constantino collected the ball and placed a firm shot past a beaten goalkeeper.

JUST looked a mere shadow of the side that had promised so much at the beginning of this season, and it came as no surprise when Neil Mills flicked on a Peter Cooker ball to secure the points for Northcote early in the second half.

Mills has been a good investment for Northcote, having netted four times in seven matches.

CAULFIELD CITY 2 BULLEEN 4

Bulleen put in a fine team performance against Caulfield, inspired by one Darren Tuck.

The home side took the lead when Bill Tsiakos found the gap to beat goalkeeper Robert Terzini. Ten minutes later Bulleen equalised through Alex Livingston, who latched onto a mistake by Curulli.

The second half continued to see some fine soccer being played, and Bulleen shot to the lead through Tuck after five minutes.

Then came a furious last 10 minutes which sealed the match for Bulleen.

Tuck headed in a long throw-in from Michael Branov with eight minutes to go.

George Kalogeros pulled one back for the home side six minutes later, but Tuck sealed Caulfield's fate a minute from full-time as he completed his hat-trick.

It was a well polished performance by Bulleen on the day, but we should take nothing away from Caulfield who battled right up until the final whistle.

ALBION 2 FAWKNER 2

Player-coach Ian Wallace inspired Albion during this match, only to see Fawkner deny them both points in the final five minutes of the match.

Albion's pressure paid dividends after 31 minutes when Karayel Sertac found himself in



Ian Wallace, left, is proving a spectacular success as Albion player-coach this season.

a one-on-one situation with the Fawkner goalkeeper and pushed the ball past him with ease.

Despite some good ball work by the home side, the score remained at 1-0 come half-time.

Wallace made it 2-0 30 minutes into the second half with a lob over the goalkeeper from the edge of the penalty area.

Three minutes later Danny Stevancevic drove home a superb shot to open Fawkner's account.

From then onwards Fawkner applied the pressure, and finally equalised with five minutes of the match remaining.

A spectacular drive from 20 metres by Harry Cardwell left the Albion defence stunned, and secured a point for his team, much to the delight of Fawkner coach Cedo Cerovic.

MOOROOLBARK 0 GREEN GULLY 0

It was a match of few scoring opportunities that was played out at Esther Park on Saturday.

Mooroolbark sweeper Keith Adams kept their defence under control and tided things up at the back when Ajax attacked.

In fact Ajax had the opportunity to score in the first half when Kevin Harrison broke through, only to place his shot wide of the left post.

The home side debuted two new signings in Robbie Kincaid and

David McCullum (both from Northern Ireland), and they will look a much better side once these players settle in.

Ajax coach Will Vasalo said afterwards of his team's performance: "It was simply to be one of those days when nothing was going our way."

RINGWOOD CITY 1 MORWELL FALCONS 2

Ringwood took control of the first half with some good soccer at Jubilee Park last Saturday.

Persistent pressure by the home side finally paid dividends after 10 minutes when Paul Mayne had a freekick deflected into the Morwell net to give Ringwood the lead.

Morwell equalised 25 minutes later after some good work in midfield, a cross from the right finding Shaun Byrne who headed in from close range.

It was always apparent that one team would finish with two points at the end of the day, and Morwell laid claim to them once the second half commenced.

A quick attack headed by Steve Kain down the left flank saw a good cross reach Ally Dick, whose accurate header secured the points for Morwell.

From then onwards Morwell took control of the match, and never appeared in danger of losing their lead.

THOMASTOWN 2 JUVENTUS 0

Thomastown continued their fine run with a tight performance against Juventus as Ken Murphy continued to provide the motivation for his entertaining side.

It took 43 minutes for the locals to break the deadlock.

A good build-up led to Eddie Sinclair scoring from the edge of the penalty area past a hapless Peter Laumets.

It was Sinclair who made it 2-0 after 35 minutes in the second half.

He brushed off his marker and lobbed the perfect ball over Laumets.

At times Juve appeared to have no answer for the pressure they were being put under by the home side, and when the final whistle went a 2-0 win was a just result for Thomastown.

ALTONA GATE 0 CROYDON CITY 0

This was a match that could have benefitted from one goal, and both teams had the chance to secure the points.

Altona's Gary McMullen laid back a ball to Clemie Aslinovski, whose 20-metre shot thumped against the post to deny him.

Andy Humble experienced the same frustration of hitting the post in the second half, when he shot from eight metres.

From Croydon's point of view it was the first point they had dropped since the season began, but one

point was sufficient to keep them firmly placed at the top of the State League.

Coach Ian Dobson summed up the game by saying that "a draw was a fair result for both teams in the end."

ST ALBANS 2 FRANKSTON 1

Branko Culina became the State League's second coaching casualty as St Albans were defeated by a spirited Frankston side.

St Albans took an early lead through talented youngster Ollie Pondjak, who back-headed into the net after a free-kick in the first half.

Pines had to wait until the second half to score, when a Paul White cross found Milner who scored with ease.

White was again involved in his side's second goal, his ball was picked up by Patrick Alilovic, who put the ball into his own net whilst trying to backpass to his goalkeeper.

St Albans could have secured a point if Jules Eres had converted a penalty.

LETTER

AROK HONOUR

IT is sad indeed to see Frank Arok retire from the national team, a position he held for several years with outstanding distinction.

For me, there will never be one quite like him again.

I have come to admire the man immensely, not only for his coaching ability and ensuing successes, but also for his honesty and integrity, and the credibility he brought to his "beloved Socceros".

He has done for Australia far more than all our administrators put together and he has placed the Socceros on equal footing with most international opposition.

In recognition for his services, the ASF should consider naming a stadium after him, and also create a Frank Arok Scholarship for the very young.

The nation has already honoured the man with an Australia Day award, now the ASF should follow suit.

Joe Tonna
Pascoe Vale
Victoria 3044



VSF



STATE LEAGUE
VLADO VLAHOVIC
& GREG BLAKE

THIS WEEK'S MATCHES

SATURDAY APRIL 14 — R8

Thomastown v Caulfield, Bulleen v Heidelberg, Croydon City v Box Hill, Fawkner v Altona Gate, Frankston v Albion, Green Gully v St Albans, Melb. City JUST v Mooroolbark, Morwell Northcote, Ringwood City v Brunswick.

MONDAY APRIL 16 — R9

Albion v Melb. City JUST, Green Gully v Altona Gate, Frankston v Box Hill, Fawkner v Bulleen, Caulfield v Croydon, Northcote v Ringwood, Brunswick v Mooroolbark, Heidelberg v Thomastown, Morwell v St Albans.

LEADING GOALSCORERS AFTER ROUND SEVEN

Lewis (Heidelberg) 6, Klepac (Croydon) 4, Mills (Northcote) 4, Becvinovski (JUST) 4, Tuck (Bulleen) 4.

VIC STATE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	A	Pts
Croydon	7	6	1	0	8	13
Thomastown	7	5	2	0	8	12
Green Gully	7	4	2	1	11	4
Fawkner	7	4	2	1	12	6
Heidelberg	7	4	1	2	16	9
Albion	7	3	3	1	6	9
Bulleen	7	3	3	1	13	9
Northcote	7	4	0	3	11	8
Morwell	7	3	2	2	10	8
Melb JUST	7	2	2	3	9	11
Ringwood	7	3	0	4	6	11
Mooroolbark	7	2	1	4	6	9
Caulfield	7	2	1	4	6	11
Brunswick-Juv	7	1	2	4	7	10
St Albans	7	1	2	4	9	4
Altona Gate	7	1	2	4	6	11
Frankston P	7	1	1	5	4	14
Box Hill	7	0	1	6	20	1

NSW POINTS Divisions 4, 5, 6

FOURTH DIVISION

GRADE 1

Hajduk 3, Arncliffe 3, Nineveh Eagles 2, Belmore Hercules 2, SSC Zagreb 2, Spanish 2, Hawkesbury 1, Concord Juniors 1, Rooty Hill 0, Colo Colo 0, Trasandinos 0, Croatia Syd Jrs 0.

GRADE 2

Spanish Club 4, Hawkesbury 2, Trasandinos 2, SSC Zagreb 2, Concord Juniors 2, Colo Colo 2, Nineveh Eagles 2, Rooty Hill 0, Croatia Syd Jrs 0, Belmore Hercules 0, Hajduk 0, Arncliffe 0.

FIFTH DIVISION

GRADE 1

Lithgow 4, West Dist Hellas 3, Macquarie Uni 3, Alexander 2, Maccabi Hakoah 2, Prospect 0, Ashour Star 0, GNS United 0, Sporting Peru 0, Sydney Uni 0, CSI Schofields 0, Chile Sports 0.

GRADE 2

West Dist Hellas 4, Alexander 2, Sydney Uni 2, Lithgow 2, Sporting Peru 2, CSI Schofields 2, Prospect 0, Ashour Star 0, GNS United 0, Maccabi Hakoah 0, Macquarie Uni 0, Chile Sports 0.

SIXTH DIVISION

GRADE 1

St Josephs 2, Assyrian 2, Pontian 2, Liverpool City 2, Penrith 2, Pagewood Botany 2, Cobreloa 0, New Welcome 0, Abruzzi 0, Liverpool Olympic 0, Fogolar Furlan 0, Balmain 0.

GRADE 2

Balmain 4, Liverpool Olympic 2, Pontian 2, St Josephs 1, Fogolar Furlan 1, Pagewood Botany 1, Abruzzi 1, Cobreloa 0, New Welcome 0, Liverpool City 0, Penrith 0, Assyrian 0.

Perth Italia retain night series trophy

BY RICHARD KREIDER

PERTH Italia began their 1990 campaign in positive fashion last week, when they successfully defended the Pepsi Night Soccer series trophy at Dorrien Gardens.

freakish reflex header. Italia's strike-force were exhibiting more bite and flair. This was again evident in the 58th minute when Allan Potter was given a good scoring opportunity from just eight metres out.



WILLY McNALLY

But it was not before overcoming a tenacious Stirling Macedonia team in a marathon 210 minute contest, with the replay result ending at 2-1.

The final had been forced into a replay situation after the initial encounter had ended in a 1-1 draw after extra-time.

With the players only given three days to recuperate, the replay was still strongly contested although it didn't have the same intensity as the first encounter.

Macedonia created the first goal-strike in the 23rd minute, from a cleverly executed free-kick from the left hand edge of Italia's goal area.

Alan Hercher tapped the ball forward to Frank Bate who in turn redirected it to an unmarked Ross McGinn, but the skilful midfielder sliced the sitter wide when just eight metres out and with only Chris Barbas to beat.

Perth Italia took full advantage of the let off by taking the lead just six minutes later.

Claude Ribieri and player of the finals Gerry Christie combined along the left flank to set up the in-form Garry Murray who thumped in a low 12 metre drive past Willy McNally.

The smiles of fortune again favoured the Perth club a minute from the interval, when Stirling player Allan Armstrong won out in a frantic goal-mouth scramble to send a snap-shot goalwards from the six metre line.

But Italia midfielder Lou Collova denied the Reds the near certain goal by clearing the ball off the goal-line with a

But the clinically constructed move came to nothing when the former St George midfielder cut his volleyed attempt into the side-netting.

However, he was able to redeem himself in the 84th minute by scoring Italia's second goal from a superb solo run.

The shot from the 18 metre line found the mark thanks to a cruel deflection that wrong footed McNally.

But true to the Macedonia tradition, they continued to dig deep into their resources to search for a breakthrough.

A minute from full-time Bate was given an easy chance to reduce the deficit only to direct his 12 metre drive centimetres past the wrong side of Barbas' left hand post.

Substitute Colin Guest finally put the Stirling club on the score-sheet just seconds later with a perfectly placed 25 metre lob that left the Italia keeper totally stranded.

Despite a few last gasp lunges, Macedonia couldn't penetrate their opponent's goal again, thereby enabling Italia to keep the trophy in their clubrooms for another year.

Coach Ken Worden was one person who expressed great satisfaction from the win. It was his first after guiding his former club Floreat Athena to the three previous finals.

In the third versus fourth playoff, Floreat Athena were strong winners over Bayswater Inter, recording a 5-2 victory.

John Hunter scored two of the goals, while singles went to Ross Greer, Paul Wormley and Ronnie Campbell.



LES de CELIS
Gladesville coach

GLADESVILLE-Hornsby FA has announced the official opening date of its new home ground, Christie Park, as Sunday May 6 at 2.15pm.

The Mayor of Ryde, Ald M. Lardelli, will carry out the honours.

With the co-operation of Ryde Council and further assistance from the NSW Dept of Sport and Recreation, Gladesville now has a facility that will be the envy of many First and Second Division State League clubs.

The Association accumulated funds over

Christie Park opening ready for May 6

the years, giving it monies to present an excellent case to the Council.

Overall it is expected that \$750,000 will have been invested in Christie Park.

The arena is situated in Talevera Rd, North Ryde, and is no distance from both Macquarie University and the magnificent Macquarie Shopping Centre.

The Gladesville-Hornsby Second Division club operates under the wing of the huge Gladesville-Hornsby FA.

On Sunday May 6 Gladesville will play Mt Drutt Town at 3pm, preceded by the under 19 fixture at noon.

The two storey club room block has a meet-

ing room lounge for 120 people, an office, dressing, equipment, referee rooms and toilets, and can cater for after match and other functions.

Steve Jupp, president for his first term, is delighted to see the work completed.

Both the main ground and the training field have excellent flood-lighting.

Competition secretary Ross Iredale has had oversight of much of the work, and Kay Iredale has been appointed as Administrative Officer to attend to the Association's affairs on a full-time basis.

The Association expects to centre its Youth League teams at the complex as well as the seniors. — KEITH GILMOUR

Euro Cup action

BY LOU GAUTIER



Can AC Milan, minus superstar Ruud Gullit, hold on to the European Champions' Cup? Despite their narrow win in the first leg of the semis over Bayern Munich, the Italians are firm favourites to retain their crown.

HOME teams all scored the narrowest of victories in last Wednesday's first legs of the three European Cups' semi-finals, setting the stage for thrilling return matches on April 17 and 18.

AC Milan needed a penalty late in their match against Bayern Munich, but Italian teams have a knack of squeezing out the necessary result in return European Cup ties, so the odds are still very much against the West Germans making it to the final in Vienna late next month.

Benfica's chances of making it to yet another European Champions' Cup final are brighter as they managed to score a vital away goal despite

losing at Marseille.

The odds have to favour an AC Milan v Benfica final, which you will be able to watch live on SBS-TV.

In the Cup-Winners' Cup, Sampdoria are just about home and hosed for a second consecutive appearance in the final as their 2-2 draw, with Gianluca Vialli netting both goals, in Monaco should be more than amply sufficient.

The other spot in the final, also shown live on SBS, is wide open as Anderlecht were very lucky to beat Dinamo Bucharest 1-0 in Brussels.

I am tipping a Sampdoria v Dinamo final in Göteborg unless the Belgians lift their game in Romania next week.

Fiorentina did exceptionally well to hold Werder to a draw at Bremen. Despite their lowly Italian league standings, they

are likely to qualify for the home-and-away UEFA Cup final.

Their opponents may well be another Bundesliga side after Juventus blew a three-goal advantage at home to FC Koln to finally scrape home 3-2 in Turin.

But I am going for an all-Italian final next month as Juve should have too much experience for the West Germans.

Results of last week's first legs:

CHAMPIONS' CUP: AC Milan 1 (van Basten) Bayern Munich 0; Marseille 2 (Sauzee, Papin) Benfica 1 (Lima).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Anderlecht 1 (Nilis) Dinamo Bucharest 0; Monaco 2 (Weah, Mege) Sampdoria 2 (Vialli 2).

UEFA CUP: Juventus 3 (Barros, Casiraghi, Marocchi) FC Koln 2 (Goetz, Sturm); Werder Bremen 1 (Eilts) Fiorentina 1 (Nappi).



Defence Academy goalkeeper Al Cooper contests the ball with a couple of Juventus forwards in the ACT First Division game at Addison Road Oval. It was not an easy initial appearance in the top grade for the newly-promoted Academy. It lost 4-0.

The Australian Defence Academy has no illusions about the task facing it in its inaugural first division season, coach Bob Bradford says.

"Our aim is survival, a mid-table position. If we can scrape into the play-offs that will be an unexpected bonus," he says.

"Our current line-up is unrecognisable from that which won promotion last year, but that's nothing new."

"The Academy is used to having the guts ripped out of its team as our cadets finish their courses and move on."

In the early weeks of the season he will be relying heavily on the three academy staff members in his back line, Neil Quarumby, Al Tarr and Greg "Henry" Laswson.

The Academy had an afternoon of celebrations to mark its opening game against Juventus including a parachute jump, a military band and a host of invited VIP guests to its Addison Road Oval.

— GRAHAM COOKE

BRISBANE PROGRAM IS OVER

KEEN Brisbane soccer experts Bob Butchard and Mark Brigden have had to announce the termination of their Soccerworld program on Brisbane's Radio 4EB.

The session has been running every Saturday morning for five years.

It seems there has been some tightening of the fiscal screws by the Queensland Soccer Federation.

Butchard and Brigden have extended thanks to all those who have assisted their labours over the years.

REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always keen to publish some stories and pictures from main regional centres throughout Australia.

Publicity officers, here is the chance to make your district wider known in the game.

Address material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

ACT WOMEN

THE ACT Women's Association has begun its competition with an expanded first division of seven clubs.

University of Canberra and newcomer Juventus are in the top competition for the first time, offsetting the departure of Downer Olympic to reserve grade.

In the match of the round on the opening Sunday, champion Weston Creek beat a rejuvenated Canberra City Concordia 3-1.

The experienced Trish Leonard is making a comeback for City after a year off to have a baby.

Officials expect a slight increase on last year's membership of 24 teams when the under-16 division gets under way at the beginning of the second school term in May.

*** The ACT has five more level-three coaches after the completion of the recent course. They are Canberra Croatia team boss Tom Sermani, Phil Reis, Alan Reis, Mike Milovanovic and Tony Radford.



ALAN CLARK REVIEWS

The Soccer Scene
in . . .

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



BIRKALLA Eagles will look at the possibility of joining the NSL if they win this year's SA title. "If you win the League you really have got to look at the next stage," said coach Neil McGachey. "If you are successful there you have something to sell to the business world. 'I think 35 points will win the league and we have the players capable of going all the way.'"

Each First Division club in SA receives \$64 per point in this year's Foundation League. Second Division clubs receive \$36. The updated figures follow a rationalising of prizemoney by the SA Soccer Federation. In addition to the points pay-out, the SAF will allocate \$16,000 for the State champion, \$8000 for second, \$4000 for third and \$2000 for fourth. On a pro rata basis of affiliation fees, the Second Division winner will receive \$8000, second \$4000, third \$2000 and fourth \$1000. All clubs also have been reminded that all solid drink containers and glasses are banned from being taken outside licensed clubrooms at all Federation grounds. Clubs not adhering to the ruling will be fined.

DONALD Campbell has had an encouraging start to his coaching career with Adelaide Croatia. The side has won the Ampol Cup and has started well in the Foundation State League. But the club also has been innovative, too, behind the scenes. Match programs and public address broadcasts have been introduced at home games and Campbell-inspired new training aids have been built by club workers. Seniors players also now assist with colts training and the youngsters act as ball boys at games. Its part of the all-in club approach Croatia hopes can steer it towards the NSL.

OMONIA has made blossoming progress since joining the Federation last season. And new coach Nick Pantsaras is convinced he can help continue the growth this season. He has fixed up experienced Tom and Peter Forde to help the cause. "But even with them, our squad has an average age of under 21," said Pantsaras. "We are making good progress and we hope to finish in the top five this season in only our second season out of the amateurs. Anything else will be a bonus." Pantsaras pre-

dicts a big future for 18-year-old Nick Kikianias who has been chased by SA Aussie rules team West Torrens.

POLONIA coach Stan Cygan looks on a winner on his return from Poland. The former player and coach has come back to SA and his side is sitting proudly at the top of the table. Assistant coach Gerry Pettit took over the reins for the start of the season until Cygan arrived and he gave the new boss a solid platform to work on. Polish import Pawel Welczorek is the in-form player so far for Polonia and must have made early inroads on Player of the Year voting.

tute Paul Caporasso, who put many teammates to shame with his effort, endeavour and skill.

Branko Mikulic netted first for luckless Noarlunga.

Relegated Para Hills hopes to motor straight back into the First Division.

And players and supporters will be travelling there in style.

The club has organised separate Key Tours coaches to take players and fans to away games.

The tourists will gather at their own club before games and will be ferried there in luxury. They later will return en masse to Para Hills' own



DONALD CAMPBELL — new career as coach.
Good luck!

Enfield's young strike force of John Francesca and Mark Ellul caused the first major shock of the West End Premier Cup series.

The dazzling duo scored two goals apiece to down their First Division rival in a 4-1 victory. Ian Cleveland scored through his own goal for the Golden Grove side.

Enfield fully merited its win with Willie Dowie, Peter King, Paul Caratozzolo and the scorers catching the eye.

Noarlunga will be less than impressed in going down 2-1 to Campbelltown with a Steve McNally goal in the 87th minute of an 80-minute game.

In an error, organisers are sure not to see repeated, referee John Seymour-Griffith played down 45 minute halves instead of the obligatory 40.

Campbelltown's other goal was scored by highly impressive substi-

clubrooms.

Para Hills coach Jack Braidwood is looking forward to a good year.

The club has opened with a West End Premier Cup tie success and has made the semi-finals of the Second Division Cup.

But wily coach Braidwood knows nothing will be easy.

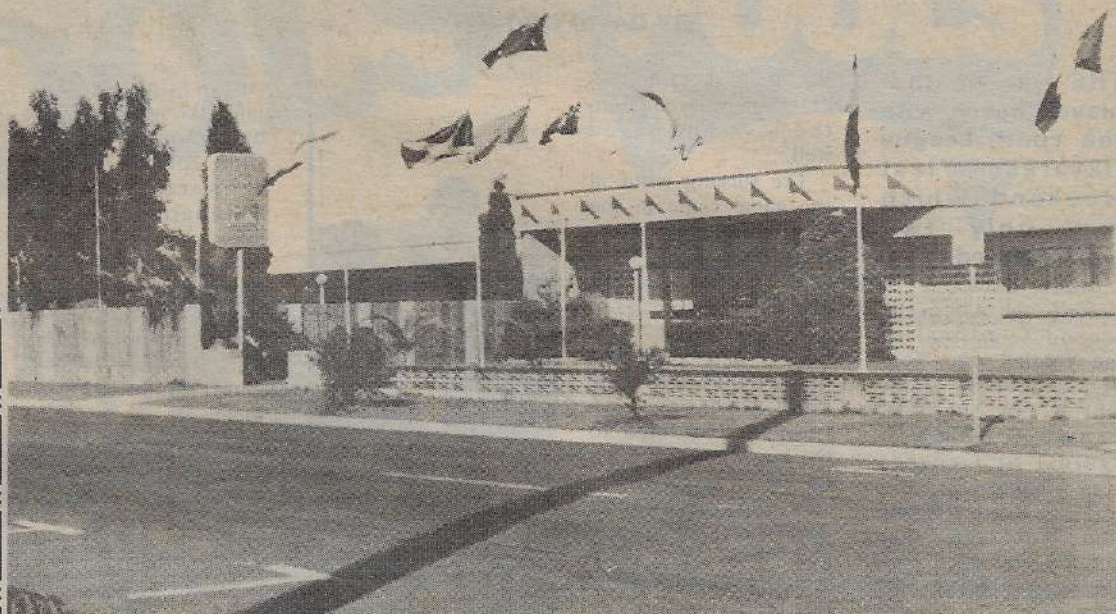
"This is a tough league to get out of," he said. "We are a First Division set-up in the Second Division but other clubs will be wanting to keep us there."

"We are looking forward to the season and have done well so far in the Cup matches. But that is all in the past, now it's down to league business."

"We are among the early favourites for promotion but we'll see after 18 games."

Para has recruited wisely with Robert Marwe, Harry Bell, Colin Bradbury and John Kaye been signings for the promotion push.

ACROSS THE WAVES SOCCER CLUB, BUNDABERG



Going north in Queensland through Bundaberg at any stage? Then don't forget to call in on the Across the Waves Soccer Club in Bundaberg (pictured) where the hospitality is first class.

Bobby Hamilton's Pine Rivers in injury strife

PINE Rivers, last season's XXXX League surprise packets, are finding the boot is on the other foot this year.

While nearly every expectation in the club's debut season last year — culminating in their appearance in the finals play-off — it seems the opposite is the order of the day in 1990.

The club has faced a rocky start to the season with injuries and suspensions, but underlined the club's character and depth with an opening fixture with over newly-crowned pre-season champs, Coalstars.

The injuries at Allison Park start right at the top with experienced player-coach Bobby Hamilton.

Former Brisbane City NSL ace Hamilton has undergone a hernia operation and will be unavailable for selection for another three weeks.

Also missing from the Rivers ranks is former State youth striker Lindsay Dines, the club's leading scorer last season.

Dines, a rampaging centre forward who creates as many goals as he scores, has stress fractures in the foot and is sidelined indefinitely.

Also battling injury is reliable defender Graham Eden, who has ankle problems while honest midfielder John Rhule also has battled injury through the pre-season.

Adding to the woes, entertaining midfielder John Schiavo and young midfielder John Drynan were unavailable for the opening fixture because of carry-over suspensions.

"We've got problems to say the least," Hamilton said.

"The good thing about it is that it's early days yet and it's a good time to test our depth."

GREG RUSSELL

LETTER

FOOTBALL & POLITICS

After watching THE BIG MATCH's first Monday night programme on March 26, I was very angry at the comments made by John Kosmina.

He quoted "Good skills are what Yugoslavs are renowned for."

Firstly, Croatians are not Yugoslavs, and they never were and never will be.

So before John Kosmina goes to another "Croatian" soccer game I'd advise him to catch up on the latest facts about Croatians and Yugoslavs.

He'll get quite a surprise I bet.

Secondly, I think the Big Match has been a great show to watch this year and its addition to the Monday night timetable is excellent.

It should be an instant success.

Name and address supplied
Melbourne Vic

News from Tasmania

BY WALTER PLESS

ULVERSTONE maintained its lead at the top of Tasmania's Cadbury State League standings with its third consecutive victory, a 2-1 triumph away to Burnie United.

Tom Compagne and Andrew Howe, the latter with a penalty, gave Ulverstone a 2-0 lead at the break, before Burnie replied through a Scott Parke penalty.

Hobart Juventus moved into second place when it won 5-4 at City's Valley Road ground in a pulsating match. Juventus' winner coming in the very last minute from a penalty converted by Frank Genovesi.

Juventus, under the leadership of assistant coach, Stephen Smith, led 4-2 at one stage before being pulled back to 4-4 by the home side.

Steve Walker struck twice for Juventus, whose other scorers were Romeo Frediant, Sergio Pace and Genovesi, while Michael Di Pietro (2), Steve Foley and Kevin Smith, the latter with a spot-kick, were Devonport's marksmen.

Devonport played most of the match with ten men following the dismissal of Anthony Rimmer after only a quarter of an hour.

At KGV Soccer Park, Glenorchy, a city just outside the capital, Hobart, a magnificent goal by Luigi Gugliotti in the 33rd minute enabled Launceston Juventus to come away with all three points against Caledonian, while the league champions, White Eagle,

easily accounted for Croatia-Glenorchy to the tune of 6-0.

Craig Pitt, lining up at centre-forward for Eagle, hit a hat-trick, with the other goals coming from Andrew Leszczynski, Neil Morrison and a David Stoddart penalty.

Former Sydneysider Bob Nicholson, fashioned the two first-half goals for Leszczynski and Morrison.

Eagle had midfielder Scott Young sent off near the end of the first half following his attempts to dispossess Croatia's injured goalkeeper, Marijan Begovic.

Begovic, who was injured while diving at the feet of Pitt, was carried from the field on a stretcher and central defender Robbie Huigs-loot replaced him in goal with the score at 1-0.

It wasn't a day for goalkeepers. Burnie United's Ian Lewis also had to be replaced because of injury in the match against Ulverstone at Montello Park.

Cadbury State League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ulverstone	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Hobart Juve	3	2	0	0	6	7	6
White Eagle	3	1	2	0	3	3	5
Launceston Juve	3	1	2	0	3	5	5
Burnie Utd	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Devonport City	3	0	2	1	7	8	2
Croatia-Glenorchy	3	0	1	2	1	1	1
Olympia-SBT Bank	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Caledonian	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Leading Goalscorers: 4 A. Howe (Ulverstone), S. Walker (Hobart Juventus), 3 C. Pitt (White Eagle), M. Di Pietro (Devonport City).

SOCCER



AIS reach Youth League Cup final

BY DAVID COOPER

THE wet weather played havoc with the Youth League fixtures last weekend which saw only two games played.

Marconi were at home to the AIS in the second semi-final of the Youth League Cup at Marconi Stadium, which saw the AIS earn a place in the final against St George, after winning 4-0.

Played in 'diving' rain, both teams displayed good open soccer, considering the very slippery conditions.

Despite the scoreline Marconi put up good resistance.

And if it wasn't for some good goalkeeping from Talia, the score could have been a lot closer.

The first five minutes saw both teams have a chance to open the scoring with opportunist shots when first Maloney for the AIS forced Schwarzer to pull off a good save and then Peter Katholos for Marconi, from 15 metres, produced a fingertip save from Talia.

The first real goalscoring chance did not come up until the 31st minute when Clune for Marconi found Vince Colagiuri running down the right with a great ball.

Colagiuri control-

led, then shot, however, Talia was equal to the task and saved well.

The turning point in the game came in the last five minutes of the first half when they scored two quick goals.

The first came when Corica received the ball on half-way line and, finding some space, he dribbled to the box where he thundered in a powerful shot which Schwarzer could only parry away and Sorras came in to score one of the easiest goals he will ever notch.

The second goal came right on the stroke of half-time, when Stanton disposed his Marconi opponent and with heaps of time he quickly took off down the middle and laid a beautiful throughball right in front of Corica who beat the offside trap, placing the ball past an oncoming Schwarzer in the Marconi goalmouth.

Marconi to their credit did not give up and in the first 10 minutes after the break put enormous pressure on the AIS goal.

There was no less than six corners awarded to Marconi in this period as the AIS defended strongly.

First Colagiuri cracked a shot from a corner kick, which was



Peter Katholos

eventually scrambled away after a great save from Talia and then Katholos from the next corner received the ball back after the corner kick where he took the ball to the edge of the area and his curling shot towards the near post was beautifully tipped away by Talia.

In the 68th minute the AIS went ahead 3-0 when Trajanovski laid off a magnificent throughball behind the Marconi defence which saw Sorras run onto it and calmly slot the ball into the net.

The AIS' fourth goal came via a bad back pass which saw the ball

run straight to Trajanovski who took the ball into the box and then lobbed it over Schwarzer who was advancing from his line.

Best performers for Marconi were Katholos, Carluccio and Suzor while for the AIS Cranney, Corica and Trajanovski were tops.

MARCONI: Schwarzer, Suzor, S. Surjan (Vilicella), Caruccio (Charwood), A. Surja, Clune, Mendez, Colagiuri, Lopez, Katholos, Cam.

AIS: Talia, Jones, Stanton, Wells, Koliba, Sorras (Radecki), Cranney, Corica, Trajanovski, Maloney, Hillier.

In the only other game played at the weekend, Blacktown were home to second placed Apia at the Gabby Stadium last Sunday.

Blacktown moved into fourth place by one point after a 1-1 result with the visitors.

In the only details to hand the goals were scored by Shipley for Blacktown and for Apia, Martincich collected his fourth goal for the year.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	14	9	4	1	41	11	22
Apia	15	7	6	2	18	14	20
Marconi	15	6	4	5	23	22	16
Blacktown City	15	5	4	6	18	14	14
St George	13	5	3	5	16	18	13
Melita	12	5	2	5	14	20	12
Syd Olympic	14	5	1	8	20	21	11
Wollongong	13	4	2	7	14	20	10
Syd Croatia	13	3	2	8	15	36	8

TOP SCORERS

Trajanovski (AIS) 17, Sorras (AIS) 8, Ponc (St George) 7.



Martin Colak (Geelong City, left) shows fierce determination to win the ball from Peter Haloulos (South Melbourne Hellas White) in their National Youth League match. Photo by Bruce Long, Geelong Advertiser.

Altona comes a cropper

BY ROY HAY

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas White inflicted its heaviest defeat of the season on Altona Gate at Paisley Reserve, running out victors 4-1.

After 10 minutes play, Michael Michalakopoulos found Peter Tikitakis in the clear and he opened the scoring for Hellas then Con Boutsianis set up Michalakopoulos on the edge of the area for the second.

Peter Neceveski gave Altona Gate some hope with a header following a corner kick early in the second half and Hellas had Andrew Freund sent off soon after.

The 10 men responded with two further goals, the first coming when Con Boutsianis deflected a Tikitakis shot past the keeper and the second

from Boutsianis's header.

Melbourne Croatia beat Sunshine George Cross 2-1 at Somers Street, with Hus Skenderovic converting a Richard Milanovic pass after 36 minutes.

John Campbell equalised for Georgie after Paul Jurcic failed to clear the ball.

Joe Bacak dropped back into midfield for Croatia and he set up Milanovic for the winner after 77 minutes.

Croatia now has a clear lead at the top with games in hand on its rivals.

Preston continued its charge to gain fourth spot when it beat South Melbourne Hellas Blue 4-1 at Middle Park.

John Metaxas got a double and Vitale Ferrante and Peter Razmovski added the other goals in a match which Preston dominated.

Joe Markovac and Lori Ristovski returned to play a part and Louie Lazaros got Hellas Blue's consolation. Keeper Kris Lemberiadis saved a penalty to keep the score down.

Melbourne City JUST dropped a point in an 0-0 draw away to Caulfield City. Caulfield lost its keeper, Kosta Christopoulos, through injury but managed to hang on for the result.

Geelong City went down 2-1 at home to Heidelberg United. David Brought almost put City ahead after three minutes, but Evangelos Papanikkos got his fingertips to the ball to divert it for a corner-kick.

Con Sindriyanis hit the bar in an early Heidelberg attack, but when Ross Hay released Cedo Rakic the striker was pulled back.

Rakic took the penalty but the keeper pulled off another fine save.

Adam Oates twice had to bring off equally good stops to deny the Heidelberg attack and Eddie Dorris popped up with a series of timely interceptions.

City got a great start to the second half, when

Adam Oates' long clearance was touched on by Cedo Radic and Davio Brough controlled the ball and slotted it under the keeper as he fell.

The visitors got a penalty in turn, when Grant Carr was adjudged to have brought his man down in the box and George Nitsou scored.

In a final attack Heidelberg won a corner after a double-save by Adam Oates, only for George Kyrou to outjump the home defence to force home the winner.

North Geelong travelled to Yambra Reserve and went down 6-4 against Clifton Hill. North found itself 3-0 down in the first half, but fought back to 3-2, only to concede another two goals early in the second period.

Once again North surprised the home team by scoring twice, but Peter Psaros scored his fourth goal for the match to settle the issue. North's goals came from Frank Muhic who scored a hat-trick and Ivan Ivas.

RESULTS

Altona Gate 1 South Melbourne Hellas White 4 (Boutsianis 2, Tikitakis, Michalakopoulos), South Melbourne Hellas Blue 1 (Lazaros) Preston 4 (Metaxas 2, Ferrante, Razmovski), Melbourne Croatia 2 (Skenderovic, Milanovic) Sunshine George Cross 1 (Campbell), Geelong City 1 (Brough) Heidelberg United 2 (Nitsou, Kyrou), Clifton Hill 6 (Psaros 4, Maskos, Soukos) North Geelong 4 (Muhic 3, Ivas), Caulfield City 0 Melbourne City JUST 0, East Richmond bye.

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb Croatia	20	16	3	1	64	17	35
SMHW	23	15	4	4	68	21	34
Altona Gate	21	15	3	3	53	19	33
Melb City JUST	22	10	6	6	56	40	26
Preston	20	10	4	6	44	28	24
Sunshine GC	21	10	4	7	44	38	24
Heidelberg Utd	22	6	7	9	24	37	19
Geelong City	22	8	2	12	33	61	18
East Richmond	21	6	3	12	33	51	15
North Geelong	20	6	2	12	38	45	14
Caulfield City	20	3	6	11	21	36	12
SMHB	20	4	2	14	26	59	10
Clifton Hill	18	3	0	15	19	71	6

LEADING SCORERS

Con Boutsianis South Melbourne Hellas White 30, Saso Becvinovski Melbourne City JUST 21, Joe Bacak Melbourne Croatia 18, Adrian Cervinski North Geelong 14, Vince Manuel de la Plaza South Melbourne Hellas Blue 10, Mark Silic Melbourne Croatia 10.

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Waverley remain unbeaten

BY PAUL GOODWIN

THREE of the seven games set down for the weekend were washed out and the high hopes held by Mount Druitt and Gladesville in particular will be dealt a cruel blow if the wet conditions continue.

Campbelltown may have problems with their own Bensley Road pitch if the weather does not improve, after drainage work promised by the council did not get carried out during the off-season.

Waverley preserved their unbeaten record at a drenched Waverley Oval on Saturday, scoring two goals in the last nine minutes to wipe out Fairfield City's two-goal lead to give them a 2-2 result.

Fairfield, with 17-year-old Indonesian-born

Remye Galloway again prominent, got the first in the 32nd minute when Arbelo and Galloway combined to lay on a pass for Vlado Mickovski to steer the ball home from 20 metres.

On the hour Galloway provided Gary Hastie with the team's second, giving them a comfortable cushion, but the visitors' approach was to sit back and defend, a tactic which Waverley exploited to the full.

Barry Walker was put through by debut boy Avi Ronen in the 81st minute and with little real danger out wide, Walker was brought down just inside the penalty area and scored, himself, from the spot.

A minute later it was Walker once more who was on hand when Jimmy Berry's shot was only parried by the Fairfield keeper. Berry had been put through by Ronen and angled his shot well before Walker pounced and Ronen's contribution was substantial.

His return to the side compensated for the loss of Peter Treacey, Frank Leyden and Bobby McPherson, all out through injury and expected back soon.



ERKIN OSMAN — starring for Rosebery Portugal.

Southern Districts took to the road and showed all their class in defeating Orange 3-1 at the Waratah Sports-ground on Saturday night.

A goal down in the first half when Ron Davidson got onto a Jeff Johnson through pass and finished cleanly, Districts hit back in first half injury-time, Gerkin Tasdemir heading in a Birol Sertbas freekick.

Orange lost key midfielder dynamo Darren Sinclair at this point and in the second half were never the same force.

In the 63rd minute Leo Ulloa beat two defenders and slipped the ball to Radovan Filipovic who was able to tap in from close range.

Ulloa himself rounded two defenders in the 76th minute and after his first shot rebounded off the keeper Glen Hooper, collected the ball again to make it 3-1.

Darren Read, the 17-year-old who replaced

Ozcar Selik, had three good shots saved in the last 10 minutes by Hooper and had a fine debut, while Goran Pavlovic, the burly tall defender signed from St George, had a quiet baptism in Districts' colours.

Campbelltown took a

long time to subdue Manly at Cromer Park, scoring from a well-rehearsed freekick in the 75th minute.

Gary Hatton took the kick, Steve Blackburn nodded the ball down and former Concordia skipper Sep Disch was on hand to finish precisely.

Campbelltown had Manly's leading scorer Mark Butler under a tight rein throughout, although the tall striker did test Dave Laurie with one good drive and Laurie had a couple of efforts from John Doyle to cope with as both defences stood firm.

Ray Carney had a shot saved for the Vikings and contributed some good crosses for Disch as the Seasideers battled for supremacy.

The Portuguese derby, the first game ever played between Petersham Lusitanos and Rosebery Portugal, at Erskineville Oval, drew a crowd of 602 paying spectators and the families who brought many youngsters along boosted the crowd even further.

Petersham looked solid early on and went to the lead in the 33rd minute, with Robbie Lowe scoring his first of the season.

He played a nice one-

two with Darren Stephenson and struck the ball well from just outside the box, giving George Psaroudis no chance.

Psaroudis had entertained the crowd minutes, before coming off his line to clear and dribbling half the length of the field before having a shot.

Rosebery contributed to a good flowing game with Tony Heery having a shot saved in the 25th, after Ian Parry failed to clear a cross from the right by Jimmy Keane.

For Petersham both Stephenson and Lowe came close again and it looked as if the Lusitanos side would go on with it in the second half.

All that changed after Cec Chatfield's misdirected cross-field pass was intercepted and Rosebery earned a freekick, when a breakaway move ended with a foul on the edge of the box.

Erkin Osman hit his freekick well, with goalie van der Leeden pushing the ball wide, only for Heery to get to the ball and cross back for Ricky Somboli who volleyed the ball home for the 50th minute equaliser.

All the goals were classy and Paul Harriott's far post header in the 56th from Keane's cross on the left was textbook stuff.

Lowe was always looking for a chance to get another goal and when David Naylor flicked on a header late in the game, Lowe was on hand to volley home and give the locals a glimmer of hope of saving a point.

Mark Hanham cleared a Lowe shot off the line in the 75th minute so the crowd certainly got their money's worth and the five remaining Portuguese derbies should play to full houses.

Rosebery have a derby of a different kind when they take on near-neighbours Waverley on Saturday and an intriguing clash it is sure to be.

RESULTS

Waverley 2 (Walker 2 (1 pen) Fairfield City 2 (Mickovski, Hastie), Orange-Waratah 1 (Davison) Southern Districts 3 (Tasdemir, Filipovic, Ulloa), Manly-Warringah 0 Campbelltown Vikings 1 (Disch), Petersham-Lusitanos 2 (Lowe 2) Rosebery-Portugal 3 (Somboli, Harriott, E. Osman), Gladesville-Hornsby v Dulwich Hill, Granville-Chile v Central Coast, Mount Druitt Town v Auburn-Yugal postponed.

LEADING SCORERS: 6 Paul Harriott, 4 Paul Pette-non, Mark Butler, Barry Walker, 3 Oscar Selik, Vaso Despotovic, Max Defellicibus, Remye Galloway, Leo Ulloa, Sep Disch.

APOLOGY

We regret that, in the sub-editing last week, the result Southern Districts 4 Granville Chile 0 was confused with Granville Chile 1 Auburn Yugal 1, leading to an incorrect lead.

Coaching licence

COACHES COLUMN

is quickly needed

BY BARRY DAVIS

THE recent announcement by Eddie Thomson that, if he has his way, every coach of a junior soccer team will one day have a certificate of competence (ASW, March 21) is to be applauded and should be supported by every level of the game.

Thomson is quite correct when he says in that article that not enough people in the game are doing coaching courses and the introduction of coaching licences will compel them to do so.

He is also correct in saying that there is a strong possibility that many of them will progress from level 1 to level 2 courses and that their knowledge will improve at least 30% as a result.

His concluding statement that the licensing programme will need to be phased in over a period of two to three years is also spot-on.

This effectively means that if the programme is approved tomorrow for commencement in 1991 it will be fully operational for the beginning of the 1994 season.

We should then begin to see its true effects by the year 2004.

While it is important for Thomson to follow through with his plan to study the licensing programmes used in West Germany and The Netherlands, it is equally important for the administrators to approve and implement the plan at the earliest possible time.

They must be far-sighted enough to realise that it will take approximately 15 years to mature and to reap the full benefit which will be better quality locally produced players.

At the moment, the majority of junior coaches are looking for short-cuts to success and they are disappointed when they find there are none.

The result is that well-meaning parents who have little knowledge of the game and no idea about coaching are co-opted to supervise the teams.

What an advantage it would be if clubs are forced to provide these volunteers with training in the form of coaching courses.

Experience shows that once people feel they know what they are doing, they are keen to go on with the job.

The fact that they will receive some training may encourage even more volunteers to come forward when clubs and the game needs them most.

And what would be the public perception of the game once it was learned that every young player was being coached by a qualified person?

There can be little doubt that it would be very positive indeed and the true growth of the game would be more likely.

State and national

administrators and coaches must get their heads together and take some hard decisions in this area today for the sake of the game of the future.

Their personal desire to produce winning teams when coupled with the "pressure" from misguided parents who demand results every week, has led junior coaches to seek out methods which will produce two points from every match.

The tragedy is that, in doing so, they are ignoring the long-term interests of the children who will have very little, if any, chance of progressing to the upper levels of the game because their skills ability will not allow them to cope with the demands at the senior standard.

The simple answer to this problem is to "encourage" junior coaches to attend coaching courses before they are allowed to take charge of a team.

The courses will teach them the correct coaching methods and these will be passed on to the children who will benefit from the resultant increased standard of play.

This is only one of the benefits to be gained along the way to the maturity of the programme.

There are others. Every year junior clubs have difficulty in finding enough coaches for their teams.

Ian Lloyd is this year's coach for ambitious NSW Third Division club, Mt Pritchard. The soccer club has the considerable support of the multi-sport Mt Pritchard Sports and Recreation Club Ltd, and is determined to make a good list of things in the current season.

THE PAPER THAT PRINTS ALL YEAR

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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FEW PACKAGES
LEFT.

STADIUM TICKETS
GROUP DEPARTURES

26th MAY

2nd JUNE



**CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 13**

"In the end he was more than a coach, he was like a father to us."

Unfortunately, that's the type of football education that is rarely available to our kids."

Although that cruel injury he suffered playing for his adopted country has cost Nastevski the best part of this season, retirement is the furthest thing from his mind.

"I'm absolutely determined to be back next year and will continue for another couple of seasons," he said without the slightest hint of doubt.

But when the day for retirement finally arrives — as it eventually must, Nastevski is well prepared to put in practice what he preaches.

He holds a coaching certificate from Yugoslavia and wants to get involved in junior coaching before considering a higher level.

"Too many players expect to go straight into senior coaching before they serve their apprenticeship," he argues.

"I intend to take a team of 15 or 16 year olds and grow with them."

"Then, when I'm ready for the senior team, I should be able to take some of the youngsters I help develop with me."

"It will be a learning experience for all of us."

Not a bad philosophy from a man who holds very firm ideas as to what's required for the continued growth of Australian soccer.

He would well be right when he says that the future of the game is very much brighter than some prophets of doom consistently like to predict.

Amateurs expand

DUE to the rapid growth in the activities of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation it has become necessary to create a new full time position of Administration Officer.

This new position will be funded from revenue earned through marketing and sponsorship.

It will be based at Parklea and will be responsible for accounts, orders, banking and general office management.

This will free the general manager for duties related to marketing, sponsorship and overall development.

Should anyone be interested in being considered for the new position they can obtain further details from the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Office on (02) 629 2833.

LIVERPOOL F. C.

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Sydney Branch



CRAIG JOHNSTON: inspirational

Sydney memorial for Liverpool

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ON the 15th of April last year, an English soccer match ended in tragedy when 95 Liverpool supporters lost their lives in the over-crowded Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield.

Soccer supporters here in Australia raised more than \$100,000 to help the families of those who suffered.

This weekend a memorial service will be held in Sydney to mark the anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster and to remember the victims.

The memorial service will be held at St Andrew's Cathedral (next to the Town Hall) this Saturday, 14th April at 12 noon.

Ex-Liverpool player Craig Johnston will give a reading at the service and many leading figures from Sydney's football fraternity are also expected to attend.

Mr John Tully, a spokesman for the Liverpool Supporters' Disaster Fund Committee, told ASW this week: "We want to show the people of Liverpool who have suffered so greatly that even 12 months on, and 12,000 miles away, we do not forget Liverpool's inspirational motto, 'You'll Never Walk



Alone."

"I will also endeavour to set up a Memorial in Sydney in the very near future," he added.

At Anfield (Liverpool's home ground) this week, an eternal flame will be lit to burn forever.

SEND your stories and photographs to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY. Team and action photos will be welcomed.

Address all material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

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Uruguayans after Aussie tour

BY MARIO ETCHART

URUGUAYAN club Defensor Sporting, who recently won the Pre Libertadores Cup League in Uruguay, and also qualified with Progreso and Venezuelan Pepeganga for the Libertadores Cup second round, is willing to tour Australia.

The club is available to play two matches against the Australian national side between April 15 and May 15.

The asking price appears reasonable — \$A10,000 per game plus fares and accommodation.

Defensor Sporting, one of the oldest and most prestigious clubs



in the country, was founded in 1910. The "Violets", as they are called by their fans because of the colour of their shirts, won the Uruguayan Soccer League in 1976 and 1987; the Pre Libertadores League in 1976, 1979, 1982 and 1990; and the International Montevideo Cup in 1976, 1979 and 1987.

It was the first National Soccer champion in 1960.

Venglos would be ideal choice

BY LOU GAUTIER

JOE Venglos, the coach who will lead Czechoslovakia in the World Cup finals, is reported to be on the short list for the Soccerroo position.

The ASF received 20 applicants for the vacant post and informed sources say only five are 'serious' contenders — Eddie Thomson, Rale Rasic, Berti Mariani, Yugoslav Drago Sekularac and Venglos.

Venglos is one of Europe's most re-

spected coaches and he has the advantage of being conversant with Australian conditions, having been player-coach, then just plain coach, of the now-defunct Sydney Prague for two seasons.



JOE VENGLOS

While in Australia, he was also in charge of the national team for its three-match series against Scotland

the national team.

Venglos is also a doctor in physical education and holds a degree in physiology.

Language would be no problem as he is fluent in English.

He left an indelible impression on everyone who got to know him during his stay in Australia and would have no problems blending in.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM



JANINE MCPHEE



Name:	Janine McPhee (Vic)
Club:	Coburg
Birthdate:	15.12.66
Preferred Position:	Not goal keeper
Occupation:	Sports Administrator
Most Admired Players:	Julie Dolan and Glenn Hoddle
Most Memorable match:	Australian Airlines Cup v Qld 1986
Favourite Music:	Anything
Favourite Food:	Italian
Other interests:	Indoor Soccer
Qualifications:	Level 1 coaching and administration
National Championships:	7
International Appearances:	5

Surace shines

FOLLOWING coaching displays at the Coca-Cola Ultimate Soccer Camp and The Mosman Festival, Dusan "Darcy" Purac was signed up to perform a demonstration of his skills at the Brookvale Show.

The famous Manly Warringah Rugby league turf of Brookvale Oval was the scene for the entertaining coaching session.

It was clear to see why Darcy has been dubbed the "Coach of the Nineties".

Collaroy Plateau Under 15 Soccer Team were put through some unique skills practices and thoroughly enjoyed the session with Dusan.

Anthony Surace, just 11 years old, from Beacon Hill, stood out as having fantastic potential and skills.

Anthony is another produce of Dusan's Brazilian Soccer Coaching Clinics at

Manly Vale.

Anthony is visiting Italy to watch the World Cup and trial with Fiorentina later this year.

Sponsored by International Kitchens in Brookvale, little Anthony is sure to follow in the footsteps of Milan Nikolic and Chris Bradley, two of Dusan's pupils who are making it big with professional European clubs.

For further information about Dusan call Sportsforce on 410 9816.

In addition Seaforth Premier League side won the Sportsforce Cup at the Show, beating Mosman 1-1 and 3-1 on penalties.



Amateurs, Juniors and Schools News

Send your stories and pictures to
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY, PO BOX 406 BROADWAY 2007
Telephone (02) 660 2033 FAX (02) 692 0649



The ACT is preparing its state under 15 team. Here is the group, along with manager Tony Giannasca.

Arok's Northern NSW trip

FROM BOB DICKEY

IN a history making tour, Frank Arok will cover the NSW North Coast, providing youngsters and adults with an insight into his coaching techniques.

The coaching tour has been arranged through the co-operation and sponsorship of SportsScene Toorina and Port Macquarie and the Pelican Beach Resorts at Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie as well as the organisers, Umbro International.

Covering four days

Indoor (Futsal)



Nicholas Jamsek, just 14 and a pupil of Fairfield Patrician Bros College, was a member of the victorious Sydney Strikers Futsal team. He has already represented Australia in New Zealand and aims to become an Australian senior indoor representative.

Coaching at Hornsby Hts

HORNSBY Heights will conduct a Level 1 coaching clinic at Foxglove Oval on Mondays May 14, 21 and 28 at 7pm.

This will be held in conjunction with the Ku-ring-gai District Soccer Association, and will be free to participants.

The sessions will be a boon to all enthusiastic coaches.

Hornsby Heights is fielding a highly credit-

able 30 teams in this year's competitions.

by special guest coaches Andrew Koczka, an international and Bruce James, the former international and Marconi goalkeeper.

It is indeed an exciting opportunity for all soccer people in the north of NSW to hear and meet with Frank Arok.

The venues and contact people are: Tuesday 17th April morning, Lismore Rosemarie, Birmingham 066 24 1664.

Tuesday April 17, afternoon, Grafton, Bob Dickey 066 42 0713/42 7170.

Wednesday April 18, Coffs Harbour, Arthur Jessup 066 55 1256 or Peter Mack 066 58 1844.

Thursday April 19, Kempsey, Pauline Fisher 065 617 226. Thursday April 19 and Friday 20th Port Macquarie, Graeme Haylar 065 835 688.

Having heard about the marvellous progress of the Soccerroos, the introduction of many junior players into the St George QNSL side and the instigation of Australia's first apprenticeship scheme for City and Country players, the North Coast of NSW is waiting anxiously for this visit.



Amateurs say "on course"

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE NSW Amateur Soccer Federation cannot foresee the Bradley Report having much effect on their operations.

The Australian Soccer Federation commissioned a review of the sport in order to upgrade the administration and promotion of the code.

Observers expect that Dr Graham Bradley will bring in a number of recommendations designed in particular to provide a more 'national' National Soccer League.

There has been some talk around the corridors of power that a complete pyramid type of organisation be introduced to bring juniors through to seniors.

Another statement has been made that the players who will not progress in the game should be eliminated.

But amateur and junior football in NSW will remain both a game in which young players can progress, and a recreational game as well.

NSW Amateur Federation president John Hedison said: "Our Federation and affiliated associations and clubs have made outstanding progress over the years."

"I think it is often fair to ask who are the amateurs and who are the professionals."

"I am sure our organisation has scaled heights in our professionalism in the game that many others haven't."

The Amateur Federation has some 127,000 affiliated players.

That will bring \$127,000 into ASF coffers to help put the national teams on a good footing.

There will be some startling revelations when the ASF begins to collect the levy.

Watch out for one state, which will be found to have some 7,500 registered juniors as against the claim of 100,000 that some have made on its behalf over the years.

NSW has not produced the numbers of high-class, creative footballers that it should have, given the overwhelming numbers of players it has.

A deal of this has been due to the late start in establishing a professional coaching service.

This began with Alan Vest and has been continued on by David Lee.

There was too long a gap after the coaching system was changed after Joe Vlasits, Denes

Adriagan, Andy McLaughlin, Jim Bellwood, Bill Vrolyks period of operation.

It took far too long to heal the wounds.

But now things are moving, and NSW has established a much better record in National Championships.

Highly creative players are coming into NSL ranks.

In addition, the basis has been laid for NSW and Australian schools teams to tour many parts of the world.

They are securing outstanding results in top company, results that are not obtaining sufficient recognition.

The NSW Amateur Federation, with general manager Cec Buccillo at the helm, has established the best licensing and merchandising scheme in Australian soccer.

It is not clear whether even the National Soccer League can match the NSW Amateurs in this regard.

There is little evidence to suggest the NSL can, even after 14 seasons of NSL football.

At the same time there must be a closer relationship between junior and senior football.

It will have to be on a partnership basis, because the amateurs will

remain in entire control of their own area.

There are, of course, areas of football that require cleaning up.

The Amateurs in NSW have recognised the necessity of "one state" football in NSW, and that will remain.

Things are improving at junior level, but soccer is well behind rugby league in its country arrangements.

Country football seniors should be regionalised so that the main areas can compete with each other.

The senior clubs,



JOHN HEDISON

which tend to draw players from their own cities and overseas, must enter the area of accessing the country areas as well.

Pertinent Advice to Coaches

1. Arrive 15 minutes before training.
2. Set out your cones/markers — Direct your players into a small area to juggle/warm-up, etc.
3. Start training on time. Have your ses-

sion planned.

4. Spend lots of time on individual skills eg dribbling, turning, shooting, etc

5. Any small games have two teams in bibs/goals or targets

6. Do not spend

time 'talking' — them working and COACH.

7. Have you attended a Level 1 course? Why not do a Level 2 as well?

8. Remember LOOK & ACT like a Soccer coach! Be organised, offer variety and the players will enjoy training!

STATE, ROBERTSON, AMATEUR CUPS

COMPETITIONS: 14, 16 and 18 year old age groups State Cups, 21 year old age group Robertson Trophy and All Age Amateur Cup.

VENUE: Association home and away where possible.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE: Friday 20 April 1990.

COMMENCE: Round 1 20th May Round 2 3rd June Round 3 17th June Round 4 1st July Round 5 15th July Round 6 29th July Finals 12 August

ENTRY FEE: Nil

This form to be approved and signed by the Association Secretary and then forwarded to:

A) 14 year old age group State Cup ☐ D) 21 year old age group Robertson Trophy ☐

B) 16 year old age group State Cup ☐ E) All Age Amateur Cup ☐

COLOURS: SHIRT: SHORTS:

SOCKS:

CLUB CONTACT: PHONE:

This form to be approved and signed by the Association Secretary and then forwarded to:

W. Cullinan, Competition Secretary, 1 Boree Street, Eastwood NSW 2122

PHONE: (02) 888 5159

ASSOCIATION GROUNDS AVAILABLE

LOCATION:

ASSOCIATION SECRETARY Signature:

Date:

* For use by all clubs within the Association.

UMBRO YOUTH LEAGUE

ROUND 6 SATURDAY APRIL 7 DIVISION 1

		U13	U14	U15	U17
Sutherland	v Syd Olympic	0-1	0-2	0-3	2-1
Illawarra	v Macarthur	0-6	2-1	1-0	0-4

SATURDAY APRIL 14 DIVISION 2

Rockdale	v Canterbury	2-0	4-4	1-0	1-4
Sthn Branch	v Manly Warringah	1-1	4-1	0-5	2-1
Sthn & Eastern	v Granville	1-0	0-0	1-0	2-3

Mitre Metro Representatives

Macarthur	v St George	3-2	1-1
Sthn Branch	v Sutherland	1-2	1-0
Manly Warr	v Central Coast	2-0	0-0

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Team spirit to pull Austrians through

ENIGMATIC Austria will be pinning their hopes on collective spirit, disciplined teamwork and the finishing power of Toni Polster when they arrive in Italy for the World Cup finals in June.

Coach Josef Hickersberger, the youngest national team chief in Austria's history, admits his unpredictable squad lack outstanding individuals but knows they can perform brilliantly on their day.

"The team has a wonderful face — the one it showed against East Germany — and a very ugly one, as it showed against Iceland," he said, referring to the 3-0 victory which clinched Austria's place in the finals and the 0-0 draw in Iceland.

"We don't have superstars like Italy, West Germany or the Netherlands. Because we are short of world-class players, we have to take a collective approach."

In the 19 international fixtures since he took over from Branko Elsener in December 1987, Hickersberger has used 40 players in the national team. "Too many," he commented, "but I had to experiment."

Hickersberger said of his players: "They are young and able to learn and they will develop. Players like Pfeiffer, Pecl, Russ, Herzog, Artner and others started from nothing and began getting experience only during the World Cup qualifiers."

"The team will grow in strength in Italy."

Austria are back in the World Cup finals for the first time since 1982 and the sixth time in all, but will be considered a team without true pedigree at the highest level.

Polster is their greatest hope of success. A dazzling but inconsistent striker who scored all three goals against East Germany, he is the leading goalscorer for his Spanish club Sevilla.

Polster came close to winning the "Golden Boot" as Europe's top scorer with 39 goals in 1987 when he was edged out by Romanian Rodian Camataru with 44, a record which the country's new rulers admit was achieved through manipulation.

"Polster is an exceptional striker," said Jozef Venglos, coach of Czechoslovakia, who have been drawn to meet Austria, Italy and the United States in Group A in the opening round," he said.

"Finding the man to mark him is already costing me sleepless nights."

One unresolved problem facing Hickersberger is that of his headstrong but talented captain Heribert Weber, who was dropped from the squad for the East Germany game after he refused to appear as a substitute.

"Weber is 34 and I will have to replace him in the not too distant future," Hickersberger said.

"Whether that hap-

pens before the World Cup depends on how the other candidates play and on his own form in the spring."

Despite their recent poor record against Czechoslovakia, many commentators believe Austria, with or without Weber, will finish ahead of them in second place behind Italy in their opening group.

Hickersberger, who plans a five-match build-up to the finals with a trip to Spain on March 28 and visits from Hungary on April 11, Argentina on May 3 and the Netherlands on May 30, will take his squad to their tournament headquarters near Florence on June 4.

There, at the ornate Villa Medicea in the Tuscan hills some 20 kilometres from Florence, part of which operates as a museum, he hopes he may enjoy the wisdom and experience of the great Austrian coach Ernst Happel as one of his advisers.

Hickersberger is still hoping to tempt Happel to join him, but so far Happel, 64, who led Holland to the 1978 World Cup final and Feyenoord Rotterdam and Hamburg to European club honours, has said he would be in Italy this summer, but only on holiday.

Happel believes the Austrians can reach the second round but advises: "Take the initiative, don't wait for the others to act. If you want to rely on luck alone, you'd be better going to a casino."



ITALIA '90
WORLD CUP
COUNTDOWN



Napoli's aptly named Fernando De Napoli takes off.

Freedom for the USSR

THE Soviet Union team will have a new experience in Italy — they'll be allowed to play football the way they want to.

The move towards internal freedom in Eastern Europe is having welcome repercussions in the most unlikely places.

Now there will be a similar freedom of expression in the Soviets' talented soccer team, a flair which will go beyond the technical brilliance we are used to seeing.

Soviet glamour boy Alexei Mikhailichenko thinks his nation's secret weapon will propel them at least as far as the semi-finals.

"The USSR will be in the final four. We have impressive results so far and I believe we can initially negotiate Cameroon, the African enigma, and Romania, who will be very hard to beat," says the mid-

fielder. "Argentina will pose the biggest threat in our group, but we play a different game now and few other countries understand how we operate."

The new-found freedom in the USSR has also helped national team boss Valeri Lobanovsky.

"Now that a new form of society is appearing, people are looking at soccer in a different way," he says.

"But we must be successful in this World Cup in order to keep the process going."

Bad

You only realise just how bad it used to be for footballers in the USSR when you listen to Nikita Simonian, vice-president of the Soviet Football Federation.

He explains: "Before Mikhail Gorbachov became Soviet leader,

football was run by people who knew nothing about the game."

"They told us what to do, how the team had to be trained, which tactics we had to follow, they even suggested game-plans for specific opposition."

"Everyone lived under the threat of the sack if they didn't perform properly."

"For example in 1988, when Lobanovsky and I were running the national team, we lost a match against Portugal because of a penalty."

"Lobanovsky and I were immediately sacked and told we would never train the Soviet squad again. Disgraceful. Unqualified people forbidding us to do our job."

"But times have changed and here we are, reinstated and free to talk about it. Our football federation has been independent for a couple of months now

and we can pass on more modern footballing views to the team."

Pressure

Ironically, manager Lobanovsky will resign after the World Cup, officially due to the pressures of running the national team and Dynamo Kiev at the same time.

But, in fact, he is expected to take a coaching job in Italy, possibly with Juventus.

Mikhailichenko faces a race against time to be fully fit for the World Cup finals after sustaining a cartilage injury while playing for Dynamo Kiev against Turin in Italy in February.

He was operated upon by Doctor Perugia, the same surgeon who performed the initial incisions on Dutch superstar Ruud Gullit.

— courtesy SHOOT MAGAZINE



Austrian ace Toni Polster.



Bari's Brazilian ace Joao Paulo wins possession in recent Italian League action.

The "Psycho Blues"

FRENCH side St Etienne have sacked their club psychologist even though they admit he has played an important role in getting the team from 18th to eighth in the First Division in recent months.

Georges Eizenberg was one of an increasing number of experts, described as "motivational dynamics consultants," employed by French clubs looking to boost their success.

World club champions AC Milan of Italy also have what they call a human relations consultant for the team.

But many coaches and club presidents are said to fear that the football psychologists are becoming dangerous rivals to their own positions.

St Etienne, one of the great French clubs of the 1960s and 1970s, were the first in France to try Freudian tactics on their players.

Club president Andre Laurent approved the appointment of Eizenberg as a consultant

when his side were in the relegation zone.

"It was an interesting operation," said Laurent, who added that Eizenberg had left by common consent, "but we are not ready yet to take it further."

The psychologist said he had tried to introduce at the club methods already successful at companies.

"In sport, the head is just as important as the legs. But a trainer who is already overloaded with technical and tactical problems cannot give enough time to the psychological preparation of his players."

He held group and individual sessions with the St Etienne players, with varying results reported by the players.

Defender Thierry Gros said he had benefited from one-to-one help, but not from the group sessions, "because some do not put enough effort into it."

Attacker Philippe Tibeuf commented however: "Football is a team sport, but everyone wants to be the



Cesena's Cuttone wins this aerial duel from Udinese's Balbo.

best. Only the coach can sort out a player's problems and give him spirit."

TURIN TURMOIL

TURIN's new World Cup stadium is at the centre of a \$35 million row.

The new Turin stadium, currently under construction has been a constant source of controversy ever since Italy were awarded the World Cup back in 1984.

Political and financial problems placed the very construction of the stadium in jeopardy and it wasn't until FIFA threatened to drop Turin from the World Cup that a solution was found.

But the local council was so desperate for cash to pay for the work that they gave the builders all advertising rights in the stadium for the next 30 years instead.

They forgot that, for the World Cup, stadia have to be advert-free so FIFA and their sponsors, such as Coca-Cola, can plaster their boards around the pitch.

The builders have now offered to let Turin have their ground back for the World Cup — at a price of \$35 million.

Turin may be in danger of disappearing off the World Cup map again.



Reid's first for Villa

FORMER England midfielder Peter Reid stopped Aston Villa going back to the top of English soccer's first division with a late winner that gave Manchester City its first away success of the season.

City won 2-1 to ease its relegation worries and leave Villa in second place behind Liverpool, which took the lead on goal difference after beating Southampton 3-2.

Player-coach Reid drove home the decisive goal — his first for the club — in the 80th minute after David White's shot had rebounded off a post.

Villa midfielder David Platt crowned a phenomenal season when he was named Player-of-the-Year by his fellow professionals.

The Young Player accolade went to the Southampton forward Matthew Le Tissier.



Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER



- Newly-independent Namibia has been admitted as the 49th member country of the African Football Confederation.
- The next African Nations' Cup, won this year by Algeria, will be staged in Senegal, whose national team surprised by taking fourth place in this year's series.
- FC Tirol Innsbruck got instant dividends when they signed Yugoslav striker Hrstic from Austria Salzburg; he scored two goals in his debut against Linz.
- Thomas Allofs, who was at the centre of an international row when contracted to French Second Division club Strasbourg, has been cleared by FIFA to join West German side Fortuna Dusseldorf.
- Star Brazilian defender Josimar was arrested sniffing cocaine in a nightclub lavatory during the famous Rio Carnival. He spent a night in jail and will have to appear in court later this month. He has been suspended indefinitely by his club, Flamengo.
- FC Valletta have won the Maltese championship by the proverbial mile. Sliema Wanderers came second, Hibernians third.
- Yugoslav Bora Milutinovic, who coached the Mexican national team for eight years, is the new coach of Costa Rica following the sacking of Marvin Rodriguez who took the tiny Central American democracy into the World Cup finals in a historic first.
- Bayern Munich defender Hans Flick will play for fellow West German Bundesliga club FC Koln next season.
- Soccer pools have been introduced in Cameroon. Nigeria is the only other black African nation where pools are legal.
- Nearly 12,000 World Cup tickets have been sold to date in Latin America. Colombians have purchased 5,000, Brazilian 4,000 while the combined total of tickets purchased by Uruguayans and Argentines is less than 800.
- A sign of the immense changes in the USSR: there are now no less than 36 Soviet players operating with foreign clubs, and the list is certain to grow.
- Racing, one of the glamour clubs of Argentina, have a new coach — Uruguayan Nelson Chabay, who starred for the club in the 60s.
- Czechoslovak international Milan Luhovy will play in Spain next season. He has signed a two-year contract, said to be worth \$700,000, with Gijon. The 27-year-old Dukla Prague striker topped his country's First Division scoring chart for the past two seasons.
- Former Argentine supremo Cesar Luis Menotti revealed he will join an Italian club season, but refused to identify it. Menotti turned down an offer to coach Costa Rica in the World Cup finals.
- Sampdoria have approached Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Popescu, who plays for Universitatea Craiova, as a replacement next season for Spaniard Victor.
- Fiorentina are likely to "loan" their Argentine striker Oscar Dertycia to Argentinos Juniors next season in order to accommodate a third foreign player, likely to be Soviet star Oleg Protasov.
- The US World Cup squad will be headquartered at the CONI Centre at Tirrenia, less than a mile from a US base. The Americans will arrive in Italy on June 3.
- According to "Irish Soccer Magazine", this is the ideal "European" team of the 1980s: Southall, Seirear, Rijkaard, Forster, Cabrini, Tigana, Souness, Platini, Conti, Gullit, van Basten.
- Dario Decoud, Racing Buenos Aires' 22-year-old striker, has been transferred to Bundesliga club FC Koln.
- Preben Elkjaer, the great Danish striker of the 1980s, has been offered a job with Belgium's World Cup team. The former Verona star may join the Belgians' World Cup "technical panel."

Nice Work . . .

THE world's top-paid players, according to a recent survey are (per year):

- ★ DIEGO MARADONA: \$2.9 million
- ★ MARCO VAN BASTEN: \$2.7 million
- ★ RONALD KOEMAN: \$2.3 million
- ★ HUGO SANCHEZ: \$1.9 million

The Plastic Age in Britain

BY MIKE TICHER

THE sensational success of Second Division Oldham Athletic this season has once again raised the question of artificial pitches in British soccer.



Oldham, who installed the plastic pitch at their Boundary Park home several years ago, have already reached the final of the Littlewoods Cup (against Nottingham Forest on April 29th), and met Manchester United on April 7th for a place in their first-ever FA Cup final.

In the League, they have not been quite so convincing, but are nevertheless well placed to gain a place in the Division 2 promotion play-offs.

The base for this unprecedented success has been their magnificent home record — Athletic are undefeated at Boundary Park since January 1989, a total of 26 league games (at the time of writing) and numerous others in the cups.

It is this performance, in contrast to their less than impressive away form this season, which has led to renewed speculation about the possible advantages of playing on the plastic surface.



Only two other clubs in the Football League, Preston and Luton, now have artificial pitches, following OPR's decision to tear theirs up at the beginning of last season.

In addition, Scottish Second Division club Stirling Albion, who coincidentally have also had a heroic cup run this season, also play on plastic.

It's a futile exercise to try to assess whether any of these teams have gained an advantage from having an artificial surface, although certain of them have enjoyed sporadic success since they have been installed.

After forecasts of widespread conversions to plastic after OPR's initial experi-

ment began in 1981, the future for such pitches now looks decidedly bleak.

There are moves to ban the pitches from the top two English divisions from the 1991-92 season, while in Scotland their future development has also been halted.

This negative reaction has come about largely because opposing teams don't like playing on the synthetic surfaces, rather than any doubts about bias in favour of the home team or a philanthropic concern for the quality of football served up on them.

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish has been one of the most prominent and vocal critics.

It is certainly true that the high bounce and fast pace of the pitches has not been eliminated by the expected technological developments.

Nor has the financial gain from staging events other than football been as great as was once hoped.

At the same time, football, in the eyes of many, has suffered as spectacle.

In one respect, however, the lack of proliferation of artificial pitches has been a great opportunity missed.

It's at Preston that their great potential has been shown, in conjunction with a community programme linked to the local council.

This has meant that schools and other organisations have had almost unlimited access to the stadium and pitch when they are not being used by the club.

The immensely successful linking of the club to the local community in this way received recognition last year when Preston were named joint winners of the Community Club of the Year award, receiving a cheque for 30,000 pounds (\$65,000).

It is no coincidence that they also had the second highest average attendance in the

Third Division, after years of decline.

A similar, if slightly less extensive programme is in operation at Oldham.

It seems to be beyond the wit of most British clubs to institute such progressive schemes, with or without synthetic pitches.

However, Preston's success has been based wholly around the availability of the pitch for use at all times, something which no grass surface can tolerate.

The best compromise, an artificial surface laid adjacent to the ground, has been put into action by only one club, Crewe Alexandra, and with the financial constraints now imposed on all clubs by the implications of the Taylor report into Hillsborough, few clubs will have the resources, or the will, to invest in facilities for the use of the community.

Thus a chance to bridge the gap between soccer and a disillusioned public seems to have been lost.

No doubt the long-term prospects for plastic pitches will be far from the minds of Oldham supporters as they contemplate the climax to the most exciting season in their history.

However, they may not see too many more years of soccer on plastic at Boundary Park.

Having embraced artificial surfaces as the latest fad in the 80s, British soccer seems set to discard them in the 90s, without seriously attempting to reconcile their faults and their advantages for the benefit of the game.

There is certainly a case for their exclusion from top-class soccer.

On the other hand, they offer a unique opportunity to integrate clubs with their local communities, a process which is vital for soccer's regeneration in Britain.

The failure to find an imaginative solution is sadly all too typical.

Millwall \$425,000 from Gillingham in 1987, is a blow to the London club, which is fighting to avoid relegation.

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PARISIAN CELTIC?

CELTIC are ready to bring a touch of Paris to the East End of Glasgow.

They want to spend \$60 million on turning Parkhead into a 55,000 all-seater stadium and director Tom Grant says: "It will be very similar to the Parc des Princes."

UEFA have set a 1993 deadline for all European Cup matches to be played in all-seater stadia and, while Celtic fans have always given the thumbs down to increased seating, the club now has little choice.

So it could soon be good-bye to the famous 'Jungle' terracing.

Meanwhile Dundee and Dundee United may soon be sharing a \$40 million super stadium. Dundee developers are drawing up plans for a 25,000 all-seater ground on the edge of the city, complete with sports complex.

REJUVENATED Darlington, favourites to bounce back to League status from the Vauxhall Conference, have been rewarded for their efforts this season with a sensational spectator boom.

By the turn of the year, the average attendance at Feethams was an impressive 3,436... an increase of almost 50 per cent on last season's figures.



Atalanta's Argentine ace Claudio Cannighia celebrates a goal against AS Roma in the Italian League.

Some Irish joke ...

A non-existent football club from the Republic of Ireland has applied to join the Scottish League.

A group of Irish businessmen have asked the League to consider plans for a team called Dublin City to be given a place in the Second Division

from next season.

The ambitious consortium behind the idea feel they could raise \$5 million to create the club — which would operate with a squad of around 30 players — and find a ground.

The directors would be willing to meet travelling expenses for clubs from Scotland playing away games in Dublin.

A prime mover behind the audacious scheme is former Republic of Ireland international Ray Treacy, who won 43 caps for his country and is now a travel agent.

But Scottish League president Jack Steedman thinks it sounds too much like Irish blarney.

"Is it April 1 today?" asked Steedman when told of the plan.

"Frankly it is difficult to be serious about this, although the people behind the scheme appear not to be treating it lightly.

"I've always admired the Irish sense of humour, but as far as I'm concerned, there's absolutely no chance of the Scottish League being extended.

"The application will be treated with courtesy and processed in the usual manner, but I'm afraid Dublin are the bottom of a rather large queue."

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND



TREVOR STEVENS

OUT of sight, out of mind... that seems to be the case as far as Rangers' former Everton midfielder Trevor Steven is concerned.

He hasn't had a look in at international level for some time now but, having recaptured something like his best

form for the Light Blues, you'd have put money on him being among the 30 players Bobby Robson calls together for the pre-World Cup warm-up.

Incredibly Stevens' name did not appear in the original list,

although he was called up after eight players pulled out through club commitments.

"Trevor has always been in my thoughts," said Bobby Robson.

Unfortunately for Steven, it looks like it was an after-thought.

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Cascarino for Villa

international striker Tony Cascarino has agreed to a \$3.2 million transfer to Aston Villa.

The departure of Cascarino, who cost

MILWALL's Irish